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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCER

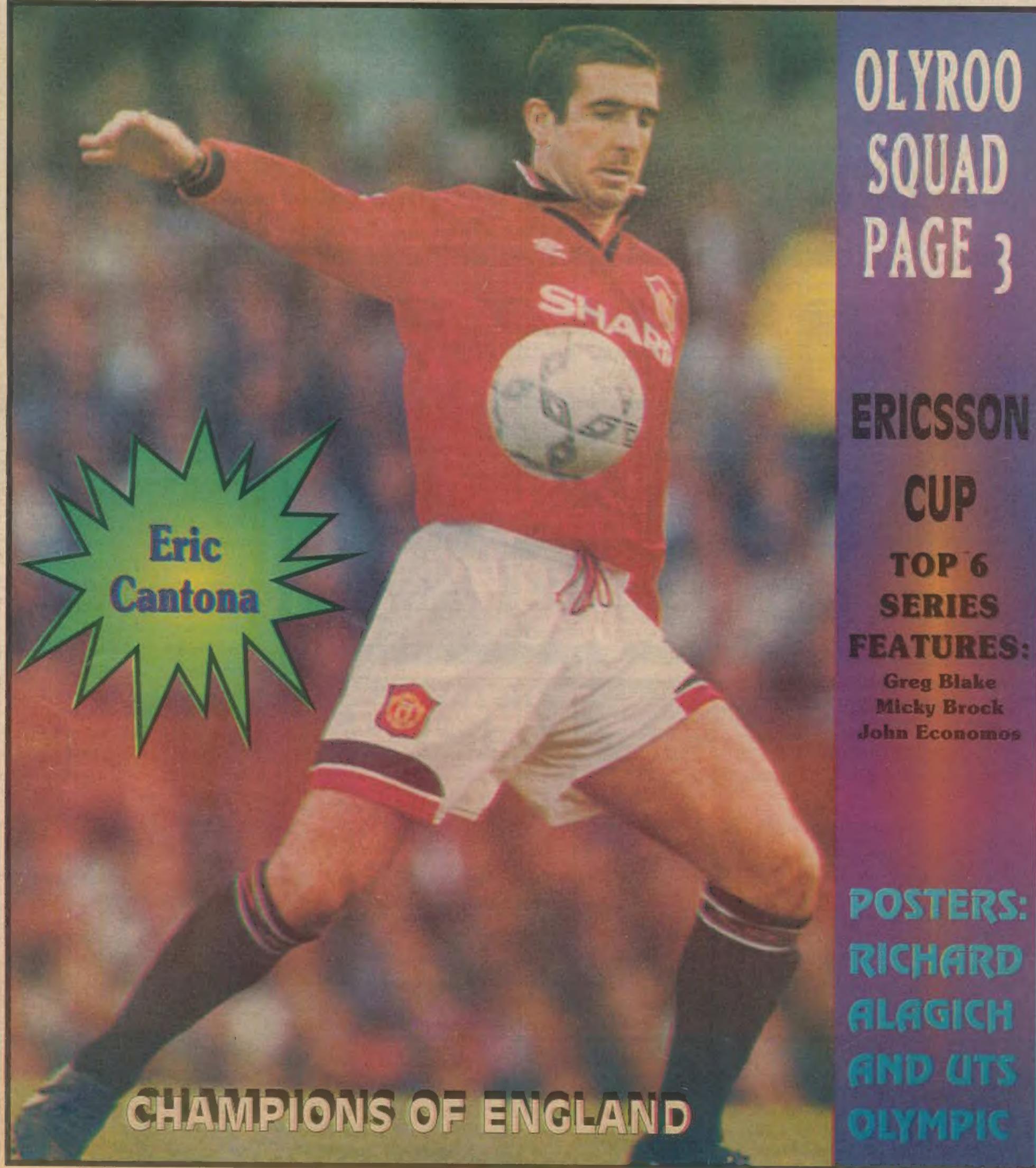
VOL 17 No.772 - TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1996

PRINT POST APPROVED PP 234093/00023

WEEKLY

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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH



CHAMPIONS OF ENGLAND

OLYROO SQUAD PAGE 3

ERICSSON CUP TOP 6 SERIES FEATURES:

Greg Blake
Micky Brock
John Economos

Greg Blake
Micky Brock
John Economos

ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 33

TABLE

TOTAL

	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	60	33	17	9	7	58	35
Melbourne Knights	59	33	17	8	8	50	28
UTS Olympic	59	33	17	8	8	55	41
Brisbane Strikers	57	33	17	6	10	54	35
Adelaide City	54	33	15	9	9	65	40
Sydney United	54	33	14	12	7	47	33
West Adelaide	53	33	16	5	12	49	43
South Melbourne	46	33	14	4	15	50	56
Canberra Cosmos	35	33	8	11	14	48	61
Morwell Falcons	35	33	9	8	16	35	65
Wollongong City	20	33	5	5	23	31	63
Newcastle Breakers	17	33	4	5	24	35	77

HOME

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	17	11	4	2	37	19
Melbourne Knights	16	10	3	3	25	7
UTS Olympic	17	12	4	1	30	13
Brisbane Strikers	16	12	3	1	45	12
Adelaide City	17	9	4	4	39	15
Sydney United	16	9	3	4	29	15
West Adelaide	16	11	1	4	25	16
South Melbourne	17	10	3	4	34	23
Canberra Cosmos	17	6	7	4	28	20
Morwell Falcons	16	6	5	5	19	22
Wollongong City	17	3	3	11	18	28
Newcastle Breakers	17	3	5	9	25	38

AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	16	6	5	5	21	16
Melbourne Knights	17	7	5	5	25	21
UTS Olympic	16	5	4	7	25	28
Brisbane Strikers	17	5	3	9	9	23
Adelaide City	16	6	5	5	26	25
Sydney United	17	5	9	3	18	18
West Adelaide	17	5	4	8	24	27
South Melbourne	16	4	1	11	16	33
Canberra Cosmos	16	2	4	10	20	41
Morwell Falcons	17	3	3	11	16	43
Wollongong City	16	2	2	12	13	35
Newcastle Breakers	16	1	0	15	10	39

W WIN 3 Points - D DRAW 1 Points - L LOSS 0

RESULTS

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
(A Cervinski 61)

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0

SYDNEY UNITED 2
(Zdrilic 13, Moric 59)

BRISBANE STRIKERS 0

ADELAIDE CITY 2
(Hassell 6, 47)

UTS OLYMPIC 0



CROWDS (After Rd 33)

SEASON BEST: 13,956 - South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9
ROUND 33 BEST: UTS Olympic V Brisbane Strikers 9,324 TOTAL ROUND 33: 37,279
SEASON TOTAL: 859,732. AVERAGE PER MATCH: 4,342

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

7-9 Garners Avenue, Marrickville. Tel (02) 560-3900. Fax (02) 550-9332
Published every Tuesday by FL Press Pty Ltd. 1-9 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe NSW 2037DISTRIBUTION
NSW/ACT: FLP Pty Ltd. 1-9 Glebe Pt Road, Glebe 2037 Tel: (02) 660 2033VICTORIA: FLP Pty Ltd. Unit 9, 405 Flemington Road, North Melbourne 3051
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspaper Ltd. Waymouth St, Adelaide 5000 Tel: (08) 218-8329

WEST AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James Street, Perth 6000 Tel: 328-4779

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Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 7 days PRIOR to issue date.

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(Manchester United)

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LEADING GOALSCORERS

31 Damian Mori (Adelaide City)
19 Frank Farina (Brisbane Strikers)
19 Kris Trajanovski (UTS Olympic)
15 Jim Tsokinis (West Adelaide)
14 Andy Harper (Marconi Fairfield)
13 Francis Awaritefe (Marconi Fairfield)
13 Rodney Brown (Brisbane Strikers)
12 Bradley Hassell (Adelaide City)
11 Pablo Cardozo (West Adelaide)
11 Paul Wade (Canberra Cosmos)
10 Vaughan Coveny (South Melbourne)
9 Mario Jermen (Wollongong City)
9 Andrew Marth (Melbourne Knights)
9 Tony Perinich (Wollongong City)
9 Joe Spiteri (Melbourne Knights)
9 David Zdrilic (Sydney United)
8 Jason Bennett (Newcastle Breakers)
8 Matthew Bingley (Marconi Fairfield)
8 Craig Foster (Adelaide City)
8 Manis Lamond (Sydney United)
8 Tomislav Podeljak (Melb Knights)
8 Warren Spink (Morwell Falcons)
8 Kimon Taliadoros (UTS Olympic)
8 Norman Tome (UTS Olympic)
7 Ivan Kelic (South Melbourne)
7 Marko Perinovich (Canberra Cosmos)
7 Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)
6 Ico Kutlesovski (Melbourne Knights)
6 Ante Milicic (Sydney United)
6 Michael Musitano (Canberra Cosmos)

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Australia's Olympic Representatives

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

EDDIE THOMSON (below), Australia's Olympic team coach, spent a hectic and soul-searching weekend in finalising his squad of 18 players that will fly out next Monday for Indiana to play a warm-up match against the United States Olympic team on Sunday week, May 19.

Thomson arranged this urgently needed friendly against the USA in Indianapolis to be played just prior to moving on to do battle on May 26 against the runners up of the CONCACAF region, possibly Canada, in Australia's last and desperate hurdle to qualify for the Atlanta Games.

Thomson last Friday selected a provisional squad of 22 players which yesterday (Monday) was sliced back to a travelling 18.

In the final 18 is Leeds United's composed teenage defender Harry Kewell who recently had an outstanding match for the senior Australia side against the national team of Chile.

Also included is Hayden Foxe from the giant Dutch outfit and European Cup finalist, Ajax of Amsterdam.



Thomson heads for Edmonton, Canada, tomorrow (Wednesday) where he will watch the the CONCACAF Olympic qualifying tournament.

Two unlucky players that missed Thomson's final cut yesterday were, Melbourne Knights striker Adrian Cervinski, and Sydney Olympic striker Norman Tome.

Immediately after appearing on SBS-TV's Sunday morning Soccer program On the Ball — where he intelligently, yet diplomatically, straightened out

some of his recent media critics — Thomson commenced his cyclonic Sunday crusade.

First he drove to Sydney Airport to catch a flight to Melbourne to be at Somers Street and watch the Melbourne Knights' convincing 1-0 home victory over the Minor Champions Marconi.

Thomson closely ran his eye over-the Knights' Frank Juric, Danny Tiatto, Joe Spiteri and Adrian Cervinski, plus Marconi's Luke Casserly.

Despite Tiatto being red-carded in this match in the 57th minute for a foul tackle on Casserly, Thomson was not put off and has included the pacey left midfielder in his final 18.

Straight after that match, Thomson caught yet another flight, this time bound for Adelaide, to arrive at the Hindmarsh Stadium to witness Adelaide City's 2-0 win over Sydney Olympic.

Thomson closely monitored Adelaide City's blond striker Brad Hassell, (scorer of both of the 'Black and Whites' goals), plus Sydney Olympic's pair, central midfielder Peter Tsekenis and striker Norman Tome.

Thomson stated to ABSW last night: "I had to speak to Paul Agostino in England today (Monday) and Anthony Carbone who is back in Perth after three years in England, before finally deciding on my last 18.

"Unfortunately Craig Moore (Glasgow Rangers) who is one of our very best and most experienced markers, is still not fit for selection.

"Craig still has a broken bone he suffered to his foot which has still not healed.

"I feel confident that this final 18 is the best we could have selected", ended Thomson.

Australia plays the second placed team from CONCACAF on May 26 in an away clash, with the home leg set to down for June 2 at the Sydney Football Stadium with a scheduled kick-off time of 7.30pm.

AUSTRALIA'S OLYMPIC SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Frank Juric (Melbourne Knights), Clint Bolton (Brisbane Strikers).

Defenders: Kevin Muscat (South Melbourne), Mark Babic (Sydney United), Luke Casserly (Marconi),



Hayden Fox (Ajax, Holland), Harry Kewell (Leeds United, England)

Midfielders: Goran Lozanovski (Adelaide City), Sean Cranney (Brisbane Strikers), Peter Tsekenis (Sydney Olympic), Anthony Carbone (Nottingham Forest, England), Gabriel Mendez (Admira Wacker, Austria), Ross Aloisi (West Adelaide), Robert Enes (Sydney United), Ante Moric, Danny Tiatto.

Strikers: Brad Hassell (Adelaide City), Paul Agostino (Bristol City, England), Joe Spiteri (Melbourne Knights), Mark Viduka (Croatia Zagreb).

Mark Babic: A member of the Australian Olyroos who will be playing the CONCACAF second placed team.

New editor for ABSW

Bob Brooks assumes the role of Editor starting May 28, 1996 edition of ABSW.

Bob replaces Anthony Ranieri who is soon to leave for an extended overseas visit.

A long and fruitful career in sales and marketing with IBM in the UK and in Australia provided his living.

During this time Bob was trained in presentation techniques both face to face and via television.

His communications skills were honed during this challenging and fulfilling period.

In the early 1970s involvement with junior soccer in the Blacktown, NSW area provided a leisure time activity which led to him becoming president of the local Association with over 5000 players within the district.

Blacktown City Demons lured him in the middle

1980s where Bob chaired the Promotions Committee before being elected to the Football Committee.

In 1988 Bob joined the Board of Directors of the Licensed Club serving for a total of eight years.

His prime responsibility during this period was promotion and publicity of the Club's activities both within the licensed premises and on the field of play.

The Bob Brooks column has appeared in the Blacktown local papers for the best part of a decade. The column covers the Demons games.

A regular soccer stint on a community radio station every Saturday kept him extra busy for 18 months and further honed his well developed communication skills.

Bob would like ABSW to increase its circulation by a substantial number during his term as Editor.

Hindmarsh upgrade

The South Australian Government has announced plans for an \$8 million upgrade to Adelaide's Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium to boost spectator capacity to 15,000 and provide covered seating for up to 4,000 fans.

Recreation and Sport Minister Graham Ingerson said the cost of the project would be shared by the state government and the SA Soccer Federation with work expected to begin before August this year.

"This is a major bonus for soccer in South Australia," Mr Ingerson said.

The minister said the upgrade would reinforce South Australia's reputation as the soccer capital of Australia and enhance SA's ability to host national and international soccer fixtures such as the preliminary rounds for the 2000 Olympic games soccer tournament.

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GOOD OIL - GOOD OIL - GOOD OIL

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS, to be the newly-admitted club into next season's Ericsson League, is heavily rumoured to have already lined up their new coach. It is expected to be none other than the lanky, former Australian Youth and World Cup striker, Eddie Krnecic.

SOCER AUSTRALIA in a fine piece of public relations exercise last Thursday, staged a special Sydney Harbour-luncheon-cruise to promote the current 'Top Six Series'. While the guests were re-boarding the boat from Shark Island where the formalities took place, a Soccer Australia official took shelter from the drizzling rain by opening up an umbrella.

So what's the big deal?
The umbrella was all-white in colour.

But it was also emblazoned with a huge blue logo of the National Basketball League. And we really thought it was a Soccer luncheon and not basketball.

NSW Super League club Leichhardt Tigers is about to sell one of their top players to Portugal. The Portuguese club urgently want the player to fly across to them next week for a two-week trial.

PAUL SOURIS, Marconi's mercurial marker is also expected to be heading for Europe soon. Souris has been offered a trial with a leading European first division side after the "Top Six Series" has been completed.

SOCER AUSTRALIA's phlegmatic Chief Executive Officer David Woolley at the end of next month is expected to be inundated with lucrative offers by large sporting manufacturers wanting to become the official supplier of the Green and Gold strips to all our four national squads.

Current supplier Adidas' contract expires in June. People from both Lotto and Asics are very keen to sign up to look after our national teams.

HINDMARSH STADIUM in Adelaide is very soon expected to be greatly upgraded. The South Australian Soccer Federation received a pleasant surprise last week from the South Australian Government. The State Minister for Sport, Mr Graham Ingerson pledged the State Federation a mega-grant of some \$8.127 million towards upgrading the lush-green Hindmarsh. Both John (Perin) and Adrian (Santrac) are already walking around with huge smiles.

NSW Super League club, **LEICHHARDT TIGERS** is about to sign up a new major sponsor. A big announcement is due to be made within the next two weeks.

CLUB MARCONI last Sunday afternoon once again showed exceptional enterprise for their members. Marconi's Soccer Administrator Mr Frank Labbozzetta and Soccer Secretary Mr Ross Musso hurriedly arranged late last week to have a live telecast beamed in from the Melbourne Croatian Sports Centre of the first match of the 'Top Six Series', the Melbourne Knights v Marconi. As well, two large tables were reserved for the media right up in front of the huge screen enabling the Sydney journos to do their work. The huge plush outer western Sydney club was packed to the rafters.

MANFRED SCHAEFER, Marconi's coach, brought the house (or boat in this case) down last week whilst being interviewed on the Harbour cruise by Soccer Australia Commissioner and TV personality George Negus. Negus: "Manfred is it significant that Marconi haven't scored against the Melbourne Knights in your last three outings with them? Schaefer: "It's sad", came the laconic answer. Following last Sunday's match against the Knights, that Marconi statistic now reads 'four without a goal'.

PERTH GLORY, the newly admitted side to next season's Ericsson League from Western Australia, will play an exhibition match against touring Italian giant killers Sampdoria later this month. Sampdoria only last Sunday crushed current Italian League Champions A.C. Milan 3-0 to serve warning to Glory's coach Gary Marocchi.



Marconi President, Tony Labbozzetta with Penfolds Wines marketing representative Ms Jill Maddiraza at the recent celebrations after Marconi Fairfield won the 33 game Ericsson Cup league.



Frank Labbozzetta, Soccer Administrator, celebrating Marconi's recent championship win flanked by Ms Shirley Brunetta (former Miss Marconi) and Ms Louisa Ferrari (wife of Marconi's Vice President Fausto Ferrari).

Last Thursday, Soccer Australia organised a splendid luncheon with a cruise around Sydney's glorious Harbour to launch the "Top Six Series". The cruise embraced a brief stop-over on Shark Island for speeches and drinks. The luncheon was sponsored by the League's major sponsor Ericsson Communications.

Despite the constant drizzling rain, the miserable weather failed to dampen the enthusiasm of all the guests attending the launch-luncheon. Included on the guest list were Club officials, coaches and players from the big Six Play-Offs, both national coaches Eddie Thomson and Les Scheinflug, executive staff of Ericsson Communications, the media, plus staff from Soccer Australia.

Below are some shots taken from the luncheon-cruise.



From left to right: Seated Sydney United coach Branko Culina, standing are United's skipper and sweeper Tony Popovic, Brisbane Strikers central midfielder Gary Phillips, Strikers coach Bruce Stowell, and George Negus.



From left to right: UTS Olympic ace-striker Kris Trajanovski, goalkeeper Jason Petkovic, Adelaide City coach Johnny Perin, UTS Olympic coach David Ratcliffe and George Negus.



From left to right: Brisbane Strikers coach Bruce Stowell, Sydney United coach Branko Culina and captain Tony Popovic with George Negus.



Group shot of official guests at last week's "Top Six Series" luncheon at Shark Island in Sydney Harbour. Front row with folded arms is the South Australian Soccer Federation president, Charlie Caruso with Victorian Soccer Federation president Henry Siwka on his right, listening to speeches.

Play for Brisbane Celtic S.C.

BY BOB BROOKS

People play this great game in all corners of the earth. They play professionally, it is their sole source of income and some have the opportunity to become very wealthy.

Others work during the day, or are students, train at night, play on a weekend and get some monetary reward.

Far more train a little, and play for the sheer pleasure of competing. Many go round on weekend afternoons.

However Friday nights, under lights, soon after the working week has ended, are

becoming increasingly popular throughout Australia.

A successful team has been run by Mel Begley in Brisbane for the last few years. Mel is a dyed in the wool Celtic supporter. That is Glasgow's Celtic, for the uninitiated.

Not far from the centre of Brisbane, at Annerley in fact, Brisbane Celtic Supporters Club play every Friday night during the cooler months. Kick off is 7.30pm.

The team is still short of about three above average players. Give Mel a ring in Brisbane on 3390 3484 and you could live your dreams.



Paul McStay: Plays for the "real" Celtic, you could play for Brisbane's version.

APIA Club being resurrected

Tony Maniaci had the prime minister, the premier, Sydney's lord mayor and the Italian consul general to dinner on Sunday night to help save an icon.

The APIA Club, an institution among Sydney's Italian community since then prime minister Sir Robert Menzies opened it in 1962, has plunged deeply into debt since the late 1970s.

Mr Maniaci and the other 3,500 members of the Associazione Polisportiva Italo-Australiana (The Italian Australian All Sports Association) club, in Sydney's inner west, are desperate to save it from closure.

"The club is a piece of Italy in Leichhardt, it has been a monument to the Italian community since it opened," said Mr Maniaci, a foundation member of the club who emigrated from Sicily in 1949.

"If it closes, a piece of history will die. It would be a real shame."

The club owed close to \$9 million when liquidators took over late last year, and has called on its members to save it by becoming shareholders and buying the premises back from Italian bank Monte Paschi Australia Ltd.

Prime Minister John Howard, NSW Premier Bob Carr, Lord Mayor Frank Sartor and consul Francesco Catania joined 700

members at the gala dinner at the club to launch a prospectus outlining the rescue plan.

"We want to try to raise \$5.25 million to buy the club off the bank, so the members will be shareholders and own the club and lease it back to the new APIA Club Limited," said club secretary/manager Tony Bonciolli.

"The Italian community is right behind the move to save the club, and we are getting support from the government.

"We've got the prime minister, the premier, the lord mayor all supporting us, you can say it's unique. They recognise it is an icon to the Italian community and a place which is very important for first generation Italians and second and third generation Italo-Australians."

Politicians have always recognised the importance of the large Italian vote, and as well as Mr Menzies, subsequent prime ministers Whitlam, Fraser and Hawke all patronised the club during their terms in office. Mr Whitlam opened renovations to the club in 1992.

While it may have the power to entice prime ministers, premiers and senior members of parliament, its local working class members like Mr Maniaci who will lose the club that has provided social, cultural and sporting nexus if they can't raise the

money.

In 1954, Father Anastasio Paoletti instigated the formation of a sporting club for the Italian community in Sydney which

immediately participated in cycling, boxing and - most successfully - soccer. The current premises opened in 1962.



John Howard: Prime Minister of Australia supporting the Sydney icon - the APIA Club.

STRIKE UP!

A CONVERSATION WITH ERICSSON

MOBILE PHONES

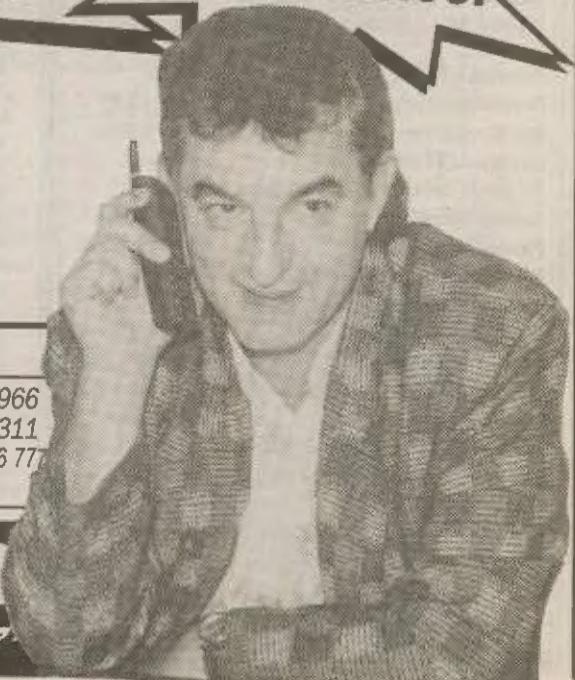


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STAR PROFILE

Robbie Ironside



Date of Birth: 20th August, 1967.
Birthplace: Christchurch, New Zealand.
Previous Clubs: North Shore United (N.Z.), South China (Hong Kong).
Current Club: Sydney Olympic.
Position: Central midfielder or sweeper.
Nickname: "Steiny" or "Wheelchair".
Marital Status: Married to Anne-Maree.
Occupation: Fulltime player.
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Aerial power, leadership.
Most Difficult Opponent: A.C. Milan's Donadoni when I played against Milan whilst in Hong Kong.
Most Impressive Local Player: Peter Tskenis.
Favourite Overseas Player: Ned Zelic.
Favourite Overseas Club: Newcastle United.
Nation To Win '96 Euro Championships: Holland.
What Qualities Make a Good Coach: To have excellent communication skills.
Honours: New Zealand U/16s, U/19s, Captain of senior National team, 57 caps, two World Cup campaigns.
Ambitions For 1996: To regain full fitness and win League Championship with Olympic.
Ambitions After Retiring: To coach.
Most Memorable Moment: When I scored against Australia in my debut for New Zealand 1988 and winning the League Grand Final with Olympic in 1990 in which I also scored.
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Golf and reading.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Frank Farina's against New Zealand 1988 in an Olympic qualifier (2-2).
Favourite Food: Curries.
Favourite Drink: Beer.
Car You Drive: Ford Festiva.
Favourite TV Show: Red Dwarf.
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: Anything Australian made.
Favourite Movie: Reservoir Dogs.
Favourite Actor/Actress: Robert De Niro.
Emma Thompson.
Preferred Music: U2, Cruel Sea.
Least Preferred Music: Top 40.
Favourite Comedian: Billy Connolly.
Pet Hates: Bad drivers.
Special Advice To Young Players: To shut up and listen to their coaches and learn from experienced players.
Person You Would Most Like To Meet: The guy at Olympic who signs the cheques.

By John Economos

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in



Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
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Let's have North and South

Dear Sir,

The end of season State of Origin tournament is a worthwhile experiment. My only comment is, why not modify the tournament slightly to maximise its appeal by including another two teams one from Nth Qld and one from Nth, NSW.

With players like Farina, Pollack and Lamond to name a few all hailing from Nth Qld the basis for a competitive N.Q. team is there.

North Queenslanders are very parochial and the rivalry between N.Q. and Sth Qld is fierce. I cannot think of a better way to promote soccer in Nth Qld than to include them in the tournament. I am sure they will be more

competitive than either a Tasmanian or N.T. team.

Likewise a Nthn. NSW team based in Newcastle would generate much interest in the tournament, in the Hunter region that would otherwise not exist.

There is more than enough existing and transplanted Newcastle players to field a competitive team plus Craig Foster ex Lismore player.

Finally as an experiment why not use the 'Golden Goal' system in all drawn games in the tournament.

Perhaps there are other ideas worthy of experimenting with.

R. Melor,
 Bondi, NSW

Bring on Warren

Dear Sir,

It is a pure lunacy, when the National Soccer Team Coach, after a 3-0 loss declares on TV "oh, we have an excellent defence" (with 8 defenders).

In the interest of the Australian National Team, and Australian Soccer, the coach has to go!

He just has not got what it takes, or goes to make a successful coach! With a two year

contract and another two years option only, if the National Team during those two years, has produced (both home and abroad) a 60-70% win, 15-20% draw, 15-20% loss! But no excuses, if the above quotas are not attained, just change the coach!

The third lunacy is, why employ, as a National Coach, only an overseas born person? It is not

written, they are the geniuses of soccer coaches!

For a change, please, use an Australian born person, do not underestimate them! In the other codes, as coaches, they excel themselves brilliantly!

What about a Warren, a Baartz, a Fraser, a Watkiss, etc. etc.?

R. Marton,
 St. Marys, NSW

Be more positive!

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter with a touch of sadness, because I have always respected the views of John Warren as a Football commentator and above all I have admired Mr Warren's passion as a true friend of Aussie Football.

However, to my chagrin his ill conceived attack on the National coach and particularly the Australian side was unnecessary (SBS On The Ball 28.04.96). The fact that Mr Warren is a well respected former Socceroo captain will have without doubt added more insult to the wound of the players who took part in the match against Chile. I believe that these players did their country proud and the highlights of the game proved that we are a very competitive side even without our top local and overseas based players.

Circumstances beyond the control of anyone in Australia dictated the events which led to the bad situation which occurred with the Chile game. The Wednesday in question was originally set down as International day and our Administrators rightly listed Australia as a participating country, hence the game versus Chile.

There was a chance for our experts??? Messrs Warren, Anderson and Yankos to call the dice the way they fell. Instead they decided to once again shoot the game to pieces. They could not, between the three of them, find anything positive

to say about the game. Yet the positive aspect was the very fact that we gave the best Chilean lineup strenuous opposition and with better finishing would have led the game at halftime. Should we play them in a return match in Australia with our top side we will cream them.

Ah! yes Mr Anderson, I am one of those "ordinary Fans" you are constantly talking about and whose interests you seem to have at heart but you are way off the mark about your comparison of the 1974 side with the side which took on Chile last week. Should Australia have chosen a side other than the top side to play Chile in 1974, Australia would have lost by a wider margin than the team which played the current Chilean side. Therefore the answer to your question is simple. We are a lot better than we were in 1974 and yes we have progressed immensely.

Let's not go back 22 years and have the National side play club sides even if it is A.C. Milan. Messrs Anderson and Warren will be happy to know that even Farrow Island doesn't play club sides. Gentlemen how about using your collectively high profiles in the Football community to promote the game positively just like the other codes do!!

Serge Armansin,
 Everton Hills QLD

"Knicker, Micky- Thommo should go!"

Dear Sir,

I hate to rub Micky Brock's nose in it, but surely he couldn't still stand by his endorsement of Eddie Thomson as Socceroo National Coach as stated on his feature item a couple of weeks ago.

Micky opined that no one in Australia could do the job better! As they say in Micky's homeland . . . Knicker! U can think of four or five who should have a chance, or even the only coach to get the Socceroos to a World Cup Final, Raleasic.

I don't think any of them would have agreed to scheduling an international match when both the local and overseas premier leagues had a couple of rounds to go and the finals placings were up for grabs. Would any of them have selected players from overseas competitions of a lower standard than our Ericsson Cup league? Maybe another coach would have laid the foundation for controlling the talented Spiteri, whose dismissal brought no credit to Australian Soccer.

The amazing blunder in Chile leaves Marconi's Longo seriously injured and places that great club's finals chances in jeopardy.

When Rasic's amateurs faced Chile at the 1974 World Cup Finals (when only 16 countries could qualify) they held the skillful South American's to a 0-0 draw. Now Thommo, with thirteen years as assistant or national coach, is setting records too . . . but with a difference such as failing to qualify, with final places increased to twenty four and failing to score in the last seven outings away from home.

Today Thommo has the luxury of picking from more than 120 players earning a living overseas. Raleasic had not one to pick in the four years he had the opportunity to weld our dedicated locals into a team which did Australia proud in 1974.

"Noddy" Alston was the only '74 Socceroo to score a spot in an overseas team after 1974. Ray Baartz, Col Curran and Ernie Campbell all had trials but did not make the grade in British teams.

As individual players they did not have the standard of local competition so evident in the Ericsson Cup league today. Despite the lack of local standards, those players made a real team. They got results.

Today it seems a group of individuals is picked, thrown together for a limited number of training sessions and then turned out against international competition.

No way, Micky, can I see justification for your glowing endorsement of Thomson. In the past 13 years we have had the top goal scorer in the National league denied a place in the Socceroo, a strange substitution in the Barcelona Olympics team at a critical period and failure to list substitutes on the team card in the olympic qualifiers in Adelaide recently. Why did we play Argentina at home first? Just a fee "Boo Boo"

The buck stops with the coach in the hard cruel world of sport, except it seems, with the National Soccer coach.

I look forward to this week's issue of ABSW to read the excuses for our most recent failure.

You have had your chances (too many), Eddie. Give someone else a go!

P.S.: We should not be too hard on Micky. Talk around the pub's is that he is planning to renounce warm, flat beer and take on Australian citizenship. Good on yer, mate!

George Green,
 Alstonville, NSW

Start at the bottom

Dear Sir,

Lately, with great interest, I have been reading Mr Melor's comments about the true state of football in this country.

I agree with a lot of his comments and some things I have stated in my first letter last year.

Football here is only a recreational past time and basketball is popular because of its fashion statement. If we study ABSW figures on crowd attendances it is easily seen that where ever there are derbies involved with UTS Olympic that club has had its highest attendance. So it is simple.

The crowds are up because UTS Olympic are doing well.

When you look, however, at some of the other teams, 1500-2000 are the norm. "The crowds are up" as declared by "On the Ball" is in fact not a true reflection of the actual overall crowd attendances. Unfortunately David Hill and Co. are trying to improve soccer in Australia from the top instead from the bottom up.

This is where you want to practice as a doctor first and then do your studies!

The kids there follow their first team, as well as say Ajax or PSV. This would improve the profile of soccer and also parents should be coming to meetings "educating" them on soccer, current playing methods and perhaps some history. If we don't start from the bottom, the game will still be the same in 50 years. Let's face it, has it improved overall?

In the fifties and sixties local games attracted over 10,000 people then. They also played skilful football. It is all very well winning "gold cups" against Argentina and whoever and seeing that only one player of that foreign team is playing in the World Cup a year later!

The only true yard stick is how well do we do in the World Cup?

If we do qualify and even make it to the second round, I will then say: Yes, we have come a long way.

Gerry van Duuren,
 UWS, Westmead

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UNITED

v

LIVERPOOL
FC

90 MINUTES

Man United	6-4
Liverpool	13-8
Draw	2

OUTRIGHT

4-5
Evens
—

Number of Corners

0-3	25
4-6	8
7-9	3
10-12	9-4
13-15	3
16-18	13-2
19-21	10
22+	12

Time of First Goal

1-15 mins	4
16-30	5-2
31-45	5-2
46-60	9-2
61-75	6
76-90	8
No goal scorer	11-2

FIRST GOALSCORER

FOWLER	4	("Liverpool Babe")
CANTONA	6	("Manchester Oldie")
COLLYMORE	6	(LB)
COLE	7	(MB)
MCMANAMAN	10	(LB)
GIGGS	10	(MB)
SHARPE	12	(MB)
RUSH	12	(LO)
SCHOLES	12	(MB)
REDKNAPP	14	(LB)
MCATEER	14	(LB)
KEANE	16	(MB)
BECKHAM	16	(MB)
BARNES	16	(LO)
IRWIN	20	(MO)
MCCLAIR	20	(MO)
BUTT	20	(MB)
THOMAS	20	(LO)
BRUCE	33	(MO)
RUDDOCK	33	(LO)
No Goalscorer	11-2	

FIRST GOALSCORER: RETURN OF THE BABE?

Liverpool Babes	5-4
Man United Babes	6-4
Man United Oldies	9-2
Liverpool Oldies	6
No Goal Scorer	11-2
"Babes" aged 0.— 25 yrs	
"Oldies" aged 26 + yrs	

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Italy	6	Bulgaria	18
England	7	Denmark	20
Spain	8	Scotland	50
Croatia	10	Switzerland	50
France	10	Czech Republic	50
Portugal	12	Turkey	66

GROUP BETTING

GROUP 1	GROUP 2
Holland	4-5
England	13-8
Scotland	9
Switzerland	9
GROUP 3	GROUP 4
Germany	5-4
Italy	13-8
Russia	7-2
Czech Rep.	10
GROUP 2	GROUP 4
Spain	13-8
France	2-1
Romania	7-2
Bulgaria	4-1
GROUP 3	GROUP 4
Croatia	13-8
Portugal	13-8
Denmark	5-2
Turkey	9

ERICSSON CUP FINAL

MARCONI	7-4	BRISBANE STRIKERS	33-1
MELB. KNIGHTS	EVENNS	ADELAIDE CITY	8-1
UTS OLYMPIC	25-1	SYDNEY UNITED	6-1

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ERICSSON CUP

TOP 6 SERIES

BY GREG BLAKE



KNIGHTS MAJOR IN FINALS EXAM



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

This Saturday's Ericsson Cup Major Semi Final return leg should hold no fears for the title-defending Melbourne Knights.

The Knights are playing in their sixth major semi-final in the past seven seasons and their seventh overall since joining the league in 1984.

No team has appeared in the grand final launching pad game more times in league history, although the Knights might not deem that as a bonus on the eve of the return game at Marconi Stadium.

Since the league reverted to a single division and revived the finals series for the winter season of 1988 no fewer than six of the eight clubs to win the major semi final have gone on to lose the grand final in the same season.

Ironically, Marconi is the only club to have done the major semi and grand final double in that period in the club's last two championship years of 1989 and 1992/93.

The Knights' story contrasts dramatically.

In three of the past four attempts the Knights have edged straight into the grand final from this match only to see the club's title hopes smashed in the biggest game of the year.

Last year the Knights lost this game over two-legs to Adelaide City but bounced back through the preliminary final route to grab a first-ever national championship on grand final day.

Whilst the major semi final is billed as the clash of

the league's two best sides, recent history has shown that the eventual league champions don't rate in the match to decide first team through to the grand final.

In four of the past eight years of Ericsson Cup finals football the eventual champions have bypassed the major semi final completely, with Marconi (1988), Sydney Olympic (89/90) and Adelaide City (91/92 and 93/94) all coming through the less preferred sudden death route to destiny.

The major semi final format has remained constant throughout the 12 years of title-deciding finals football.

From 1984 to 1986 the two divisional minor-premiers were afforded a week's rest under the final five format before meeting the qualifying final (2 v 3) winner to decide first into the respective division grand finals.

From 1988 to 1991/92 the

top team in the final five format was given the same advantage, with the minor premier earning an opening round rest before taking on the winner of the 2nd v 3rd Qualifying Final.

Under the current top six system devised for the 1992/93 season 1st played 2nd over two legs the winner on aggregate taking first spot in the grand final and earning home city advantage for the biggest game of the season.

Low-risk football and low scoring matches have been the trend until the last couple of seasons, when the Knights and South Melbourne shared seven goals over two games in 1993/94 and the Knights and the Zebras split four last year.

Over the six previous seasons of the seven major semi-finals played, four had finished 1-0 and two others at 0-0.

The major semi-final has provided its share of thrillers over the years. One of the heart-stoppers was played at Olympic Park in 1984 between the Knights and South Melbourne.

The Knights and Blues have faced off in three of the past five major semi-finals but the 1984 clash eclipsed any of those recent games.

South Melbourne's charge towards its first title looked dead when it trailed the Knights into the 84th minute of the game before John Yzendoorn's late strike took the game into extra-time.

In the extra-time period Doug Brown struck two historic goals, the double making him league top scorer for the second successive year and setting a since equalled major semi final individual scoring record.

The Knights managed a further score but missed two other late chances as the match finished 3-2.

South Melbourne featured in probably the other most sensational major semi-final in Ericsson Cup history in 1992/93, the day Blues fans recall as the 'Black Sunday massacre'.

The minor premiership-winning Blues capped a recent run of finals outs with the biggest thrashing in finals history as they were crushed by eventual champions Marconi 7-0.

It remains South Melbourne's heaviest defeat ever in nearly 600 league, cup and finals matches since 1977.

ALL THE MAJOR SEMI FINAL RECORDS

MAJOR SEMI FINAL RECORD SCORE:

Marconi Fairfield 7 - South Melbourne 0 (1992/93 2nd Leg)

MAJOR SEMI FINAL RECORD CROWD:

14,048 for Melbourne Knights v South Melbourne at Olympic Park (1991/92)

MAJOR SEMI FINAL HIGHEST SINGLE GAME AGGREGATE SCORE:

Seven goals: Marconi Fairfield 7 - South Melbourne 0 (1992/93 2nd Leg)

MAJOR SEMI FINAL BEST GOALSCORING PERFORMANCE:

Doug Brown (2 goals for South Melbourne v Melbourne Knights in 1984); Andy Harper (2 goals for Marconi v South Melbourne in 1992/93)

MAJOR SEMI FINAL WINNERS TO TAKE TITLE:

South Melbourne (1984) *
Melbourne Zebras (1985) *
Adelaide City (1986) *
Marconi (1989)
Marconi (1992/93)

*Denotes winner of divisional major semi, when league was divided between Southern and Northern sections.

MAJOR SEMI FINAL RESULTS DOWN THE YEARS:

(All matches in the cities of the first-named clubs)

1984 - (Sth Div) South Melbourne 3 - Melbourne Knights 2
(Nth Div) Sydney City 1 - UTS Olympic 1
* Sydney City wins 4-2 on penalties

1985 - (Sth Div) Melbourne Zebras 1 - South Melbourne 0
(Nth Div) Sydney City 1 - Sydney United 0

1986 - (Sth Div) Adelaide City 2 - Melbourne Zebras 0
(Nth Div) St George 3 - Sydney United 0

1988 - Sydney United 0 - Wollongong City 0
*Sydney Utd wins 4-3 on penalties

1988 - Marconi 1 - St George 0

89/90 - Marconi 1 - Melbourne Knights 0

90/91 - Melbourne Knights 1 - South Melbourne 0

91/92 - Melbourne Knights 0 - South Melbourne 0
*Knights win 5-3 on penalties

92/93 - (1st Leg) South Melbourne 0 - Marconi 1
(2nd Leg) Marconi 7 - South Melbourne 0

*Marconi win 8-0

93/94 - (1st Leg) South Melbourne 1 - Melbourne Knights 2
(2nd Leg) Marconi 7 - South Melbourne 0
*Marconi win 8-0 on aggregate

94/95 - (1st Leg) Adelaide City 1 - Melbourne Knights 0
(2nd Leg) Melbourne Knights 1 - Adelaide City 2
*Adelaide City wins 3-1 on aggregate



David Cervinski: Melbourne Knights' rock solid defender.

ERICSSON CUP

TOP 6 SERIES



BY GREG BLAKE

ALL THE ELIMINATION FINAL RECORDS

ELIMINATION FINAL RECORD SCORE:

South Melbourne 5 — Morwell Falcons 1 (1994/95 2nd Leg)

ELIMINATION FINAL RECORD CROWD:

13,608 for Marconi v UTS Olympic at Parramatta Stadium (1993/94 2nd Leg)

ELIMINATION FINAL HIGHEST SINGLE GAME

AGGREGATE SCORE:

Six goals: Brisbane Lions 4 — Melbourne Zebras 2 (1984 Southern Division); Marconi 3 — Sydney City 3 (1986 Northern division) and Marconi 3 — Parramatta Eagles 3 (1990/91); South Melbourne 5 — Morwell Falcons 1 (1994/95 2nd Leg)

ELIMINATION FINAL BEST GOALSCORING

PERFORMANCE:

Frank Farina (3 goals for Sydney City v Marconi in 1986)

ELIMINATION FINAL WINNERS TO TAKE TITLE:

Marconi (1988)
Sydney Olympic (1989/90)
Adelaide City (1991/92)
Adelaide City (1993/94)

ELIMINATION FINAL RESULTS DOWN THE YEARS:
(All matches in the home cities of the first-named club)

1984 - (Sth Div) Brisbane Lions 4 — Melbourne Zebras 2
(Nth Div) Apia Leichhardt 3 — Blacktown City 1

1985 - (Sth Div) Preston 2 — Melbourne Knights 1
(Nth Div) UTS Olympic 1 — St George 0

1986 - (Sth Div) Sunshine GC 2 — Heidelberg Utd 1
(Nth Div) Marconi 3 — Sydney City 3
*Marconi wins 4-3 on penalties

1988 - Marconi 3 — UTS Olympic 1

1989 - Melbourne Knights 2 — Preston 0

89/90 - UTS Olympic 2 — Adelaide City 1

90/91 - Marconi 3 — Parramatta Eagles 3
*Marconi wins 7-6 on penalties

91/92 - Adelaide City 1 — Wollongong City 0

92/93 - #1 (1st Leg) Adelaide City 0 — West Adelaide 1
(2nd Leg) West Adelaide 1 — Adelaide City 2
*Adelaide City wins on away goals rule after aggregate 2-2 draw
#2 (1st Leg) Wollongong City 3 — Parramatta Eagles 0
(2nd Leg) Parramatta Eagles 2 — Wollongong City 1
*Wollongong wins 4-2 on aggregate

93/94 - #1 (1st Leg) Adelaide City 0 — Sydney United 1
(2nd Leg) Sydney United 0 — Adelaide City 2
*Adelaide City wins 2-1 on aggregate
#2 (1st Leg) UTS Olympic 2 — Marconi 1
(2nd Leg) Marconi 3 — UTS Olympic 1
*Marconi wins 4-3 on aggregate

94/95 - #1 (1st Leg) West Adelaide 1 — Sydney United 1
(2nd Leg) Sydney United 1 — West Adelaide 0
*Sydney United wins 2-1 on aggregate
#2 (1st Leg) Morwell Falcons 0 — South Melbourne 1
(2nd Leg) South Melbourne 5 — Morwell Falcons 1
*South Melbourne wins 6-1 on aggregate

Note — Elimination game #1 denotes 3rd v 5th
Elimination game #2 denotes 4th v 6th

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THE LONGEST ROAD TO GLORY

Its title gives away the cut-throat nature of the elimination final, with oblivion awaiting the vanquished and a similarly treacherous road to possible grand final glory still ahead for the victorious side.

The two sides who edge through this weekend's return legs of the two elimination finals have only started a five game series which, if successful, will earn them the title in the most testing fashion imaginable.

Read little into last weekend's opening round elimination final scores.

Anything can and often does happen when the sides from the lower reaches of the top six scratch and claw into the last-ditch or-die clashes of the finals series.

Since the duel-legged eliminators came into vogue in 1992/93 three of the five clubs behind after opening leg games came back to win the overall tie.

Regardless of last weekend's results Adelaide City fans should be buoyed by the memory of their club's recent habit of coming back in the second leg.

In two of the past three seasons Adelaide City has lost its opening week elimination final and come back to win the cut-throat clashes before going on to make the Ericsson Cup Grand Final in both years.

Adelaide City is also the most experienced club of the elimination finals combatants, this year facing its fifth cut-throat final in the past seven years and having made the grand final on three occasions from this very position during that period.

For fans of Sydney United making their third consecutive trip to the elimination games, Brisbane and UTS Olympic the trend in favour of the underdogs is heartening, providing that their respective team can negotiate this initial hurdle.

In five of the past eight seasons at least one elimination final survivor has used the match as a springboard to making the grand final.

Four of those five clubs — Marconi (88), Olympic (89/90) and Adelaide City

(91/92 and 93/94) — have actually scrambled to the ultimate success in the biggest game on the domestic soccer calendar.

With four teams in the past eight seasons succeeding from the cut-throat early round games no team can be discounted, even when the stakes are at their highest.

Although no team has won from sixth position in two attempts, Adelaide City (93/94) and UTS Olympic (89/90) share the Ericsson Cup record of having taken the big prize after finishing fifth on the home and away ladder.

Marconi (in 1988) and Adelaide City (1991/92) both finished fourth and also took the title after coming from the opening round elimination game.

By virtue of the changes of the finals system Adelaide City's 1993/94 run deserves an extra credit, with the Zebras having to negotiate a five-game finals campaign to win against Olympic's four match run to the title four years previously.

However, aside from the duel-legged element introduced in 1992/93 the

elimination final has remained constant throughout the 12 years of NSL title-deciding finals series.

From 1984 to 1986 the two division play-off system ensured double the cut-throat early round games no team can be discounted, even when the stakes are at their highest.

From 1988 to 1991/92 the elimination final remained a simple 4th v 5th battle with loser eliminated under the top five system and the winner left to negotiate the minor semi, preliminary and grand finals for title success.

Under the current top six system devised for the 1992/93 season two elimination finals are played, with third meeting fifth and fourth taking on sixth over two legs. Both first round losers drop out of the finals race.

The two winners face off in the minor semi, with the sole survivor then facing a preliminary and grand final to secure the title.

Ironically, it was two of this year's elimination

teams who probably set the tone for the 1990s in the very first summer season.

In 1989/90 title-bound Olympic probably taught Adelaide City the finals caper in that season with Zoran Matic's team bowing out in that year's elimination game as Olympic started its record-breaking run to the championship.

Adelaide City has since appeared in three further elimination finals (91/92, 92/93 and 93/94) and won them all before going on the roller-coaster, knock-out ride to the grand final and winning two titles in the process.

Adelaide City shares the record with Olympic for having played in five elimination finals each in the past decade.

Olympic's 3-1 loss in the 1988 elimination final against eventual champion Marconi set up one of the league's greatest rivalries of that era with the Fairfielders and Olympic going on to meet in the next two grand finals.

The cut-throat element of elimination battles has provided some of the NSL's most memorable moments, with the 1990/91 drama played out between mighty Marconi and underdog Parramatta one for the annals.

Coming off three straight grand finals Marconi was expected to coast against Raul Blanco's fledgling Eagles on finals opening day.

Instead the Fairfielders had to come from behind twice to level at 2-2 to get the game to extra time and then produce another comeback goal after 116 minutes through David Lowe to take the game to penalties after an enthralling 3-3 draw.

With many of the near hysterical 8,000 crowd clearly on the side of the Eagles the league rookies ended the opening series of five penalties locked at 3-3 against the star-studded Marconi line-up.

At 6-6 in sudden death it took a wonderful save from Bobby Catlin to stop Parramatta's Alfredo Barrios, with Lowe driving home the winner at 7-6 in what many rank as one of the greatest Ericsson Cup finals games.



Mark Yates: Young defender entering his first finals series with plenty of experience this season.



TWO OUT OF THREE AINT BAD

SYDNEY UNITED 2

BRISBANE

STRIKERS 0

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Sydney United scored a goal in each session in an action-packed clash and on a very wet pitch last Sunday night at the Sydney Croatian Sports Centre, to run out 2-0 winners against a far from disgraced Brisbane Strikers in the first leg of the Elimination Semi-final in the Top Six Series.

Although defeated and despite a rain-saturated pitch, Brisbane fought outstandingly and refused to sit back, as they relentlessly threw men forward into attack.

In fact, neither goalkeeper (Johnny Perosh for United and Clint Bolton for Brisbane), could be faulted in their handling of the greasy ball.

Perosh in particular had an absolutely outstanding



John Perosh: Pulled off two magnificent saves.

match, pulling off two magnificent saves which deprived the industrious yet luckless Queenslanders of at least a deserving draw.

Both coaches and both teams must surely be commended for their positive tactics attitude and performances by playing such an outstanding, open attacking battle, ignoring the negative climatic conditions that prevailed.

Linkman David ('Lawman') Zdrilic drew first blood for the Sydney-siders in the 14th minute. The intelligent Zdrilic connected

with a Manis Lamond cross rifled in from the right flank towards the back post, to hit the target with a scorchingly sharp header.

Less than 60 seconds later, the resilient Queenslanders recoiled strongly through fiercely competitive central marker Alan Hunter. But the giant energetic enforcer was denied joy, as he hit the left upright with his blast from the edge of the box.

On the hour mark attacking left midfielder Ante Moric doubled the scoreline with a spectacular and skilful goal. Receiving an

early ball sprayed wide to the left by central midfielder Robbie Enes, Moric fluently beat a defender, elegantly switched the ball onto his firing left boot, before unleashing a vicious rising drive from just inside the box, which crashed high into the target.

Two minutes prior to that, Brisbane had failed to equalise through star striker Frank Farina who for most of the match, was magnificently and tightly tracked by United's tenacious marker Velimir Kupresak. Farina screwed his shot just wide following a cross from left midfielder Troy Cranney.

Luck continued to elude Brisbane in the 73rd minute, as blond playmaker Jason Polak slammed a rocketting drive on target from 20 metres that first deflected off Mark Babic's outstretched left boot, then flew low to the right forcing Perosh to make yet another magnificent block.

Sydney United was playing well as the two

midfield Robbies - Enes and Markovac - worked the ball across the pitch with

SCORERS: Sydney United: Zdrilic (13), Moric (59)

YELLOW CARDS: Sydney United: Zdrilic (6), Enes (85)

Brisbane: Gwynne (89)

CROWD: 2848

REFEREE: E Brazzale

intelligent right-back Robbie Trajkovski raiding the flank, as did Ante Moric on the opposite line.

The heavy-pitch also failed to influence Brisbane into playing long balls or sit back and wait for the counter-attack. Their midfield quartet of Sean Cranney, Gary Phillips, Jason Polak and Troy Cranney repeatedly endeavoured to engineer excellent and attractive build-ups, while twin-markers Steve Jackson and Alan Hunter stood firm at the back, well-welded by sweeper Craig Williams.

With nine minutes left on the clock the Queenslanders had their best chance of scoring a most valuable 'away-goal'. A corner found marker Stevie Jackson, who strongly headed on target from close-range, only to be denied by right-back Robbie Trajkovski who headed the missile back out off the goal-line.

With two minutes left the Brisbane boys stormed United's lines again. A galloping Hunter headed strongly goalwards, only to watch in horror as a horizontal Perosh, tipped just over the cross-bar.

Brisbane's boss Bruce Stowell was far from disappointed, stating to ABSW: "They had three chances and put away two of them, whilst their goalkeeper had the game of his life. This result will sharpen us for the return match as we played well, but are leaving with nothing to show for it."

Stowell went on to warn: "By no means are we dead and now have to turn things around even though my

entire side worked and played well, and one may ask just how we lost 2-0? So many good positive things came out of this game for us and we can't wait to get home and work on them", ended Stowell.

Meanwhile United's coach Branko Culina was quietly happy and most complementary as he reflected: "Credit to Brisbane as they are a very good side and played very well, refusing to sit back and coming at us. I was pleased with all my boys and having a two goal cushion we can sit back for the return leg as they have far too many quality players."

SYDNEY UNITED: Perosh, Trajkovski, Kupresak, Popovic, M Babic, Enes, Moric, Markovac, Milicic (Z Babic 58), Zdrilic, Lamond (C Gibson 88).

BRISBANE STRIKERS: Bolton, Williams, Hunter, Jackson, Phillips (Wright 64), Farina, Brown (Battistin 83), Polak, T Cranney, S Cranney, Gwynne.

Stallions all set for revenge

MELB KNIGHTS 1

MARCONI- FAIRFIELD 0

BY CON STAVROS

A drama charged second half has set up a blockbuster Major Semi-Final second leg this weekend in Sydney.

Danny Tiatto's controversial dismissal in the 56th minute sparked emotions across the park, igniting one of the tensest finals in recent history and leaving both teams feeling they should have walked away with more.

Tiatto was sensationaly dismissed by referee Simon Micallef for a two-footed tackle on Marconi's Luke Casserley, in an incident that raised the ire of the parochial home crowd.

"At best it was a yellow card", said the Knights' Ian Dobson of Tiatto's apparently innocuous lunge.

Knights' president Angie Cimera was still fuming well after the match calling the decision a "disgrace".

"Why don't you guys (the press) for once tell the truth about this," he fumed at the media gallery.

Tiatto in fairness looked to have suffered because of a hefty reputation for indiscretions, although Marconi's Manfred Schaeffer was adamant that the sending off was

warranted.

"Last time we played them Mike Smith had his leg broken (by Ice Kutlesovski) and that tackle today was worse I thought," said Schaeffer, putting his perspective on the game's main talking point.

The Knights managed to overcome the man shortage to snatch a dramatic victory with a goal by resurrected hero Adrian Cervinski.

Ousted for six months for evading a drug test, Cervinski has consistently hit the back of the net in the last weeks for the Knights. The striker managed to slash home a low shot in the 62nd minute after a sizzling strike by Lubo Lapsansky rattled off the post and straight back to the quick-thinking Cervinski.

The Knights deserved their victory, despite the red card, dominating the game in the first half and maintaining control even when Marconi went for the kill after the dismissal of Tiatto.

"What they did to us, we will do to them," he said of the ferocious attacking of the Knights. "We will be a different team at home."

Marconi however have failed to score against the Knights in four matches this season and will have to do battle without key defender Jean-Paul De Marigny who limped off in the 29th minute with a injury to his left hamstring.

Whilst De Marigny will surely be missing, an injury cloud also rests on Casserley

who limped off late in the second half.

Aside from the injuries, Schaeffer hinted at other changes.

"There were some players who didn't perform for me

today and I'll have to look at that during the week, he said.

The Knights seemed unstoppable in the first half, led by Joe Spiteri and Adrian Cervinski in attack through the middle and Tiatto and

Tom Pondeljak on the flanks.

The absence of Dominic Longo appeared to unsettle the visitors, with the Knights racking up a number of chances that flew just wide of the goal.

Adrian Cervinski was narrowly wide in the 4th minute from a free-kick and then blasted wide in general play in the 28th, before Spiteri wasted a procession of four good chances in the last ten minutes of the first half.

Marconi preferred to pack the midfield rather than the defence in attempt to thwart the pace of the Knights, often using strikers Francis Awarife and Harper to fall well behind the ball.

Dobson seemed confident of protecting the lead in Sydney on the weekend, despite the absence of Tiatto.

"I thought we did really well, but it's only the first stage and we still have a job to do," he said.

The winner on aggregate, will not only move directly into the Grand Final, but will also receive the prized bonus of hosting rights for Australian soccer's big day on May 26.

KNIGHTS: Juric, DeAmicis, D Cervinski, Z Markovski, Simunic, Spiteri (Markovski 81), Lapsansky, Tiatto, Kovacevic, A Cervinski (O Pondeljak 84), T Pondeljak (Buljubasic 74).

MARCONI: Catlin, Van Egmond, DeMarigny (Stanton 30), Bingley, Casserly (Holst 78), Harper, Hristodoulou, Maloney, Awarife, Souris, Renaud (Zoric 59).



Lubo Lapsansky: Created the Knight's goal.

ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

Zebras set themselves for victory

**ADELAIDE CITY 2
UTS OLYMPIC 0**

BY PETER KRUPKA

Adelade City made a perfect start to its eighth national soccer league finals campaign by beating UTS Olympic 2-0 in the first leg of the elimination semi-final at the Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

With new Olympic coach Raul Blanco watching, Olyroo hopeful Bradley Hassell was the hero for the home side scoring both goals to keep City's reputation as Australian soccer's finals specialists alive.

Smarting from its terrible effort against Sydney United last week, the Zebras opened well and brought the home crowd to its feet in the sixth minute when Hassell steered in a shot by Dino Mennillo.

The move started with Craig Foster finding room in the midfield before setting Damian Mori for a volley

which was saved by 'keeper Mike Gibson but found Mennillo.

Hassell struck again three

SCORERS: Adelaide

Hassell 16, 48

YELLOW CARDS:

Adelaide: Armour (36)

Olympic: Tome (3)

Edwards (8) Tsekenis

1371

CROWD: 6,938

REFEREE: Brett Hugo

minutes after the break shrugging off two opponents to belt the ball home and complete a brilliant solo effort.

Foster kept up supply through the midfield while sweeper Milan Ivanovic returned to his creative best to turn defence into attack for City.

The visitors had their chances to secure a potentially important away goal just before the break when the ball fell kindly to Kris Trajanovski but his close range shot was brilliantly saved by goalkeeper Jason Petkovic.

An earlier effort by the Olympic sharpshooter deflected off a City player but wide of the post and a long range effort by Nick Meredith right on half time was fumbled by Petkovic before he controlled the ball.

Trajanovski was presented with another chance to score seven minutes from full time when Petkovic fell trying to cut out a cross but, with an open goal to look at, he headed wide.

City coach John Perin was confident his experienced side could hold off Olympic in the return leg next Sunday and was full of praise for Ivanovic.

"If we can't defend a two goal lead, we don't deserve to be there," he said.

"Milan stole the show, he didn't make a mistake. I've never seen him play as well as that."

Having led the competition for a chunk of the season, Olympic coach David Ratcliffe was understandably upset with the result.

"It makes it difficult. If they

get one more goal, we've got to get four — it's a real uphill task," Ratcliffe said.

"It's tough when you have to open up and chase a game and you've got Mori and Hassell waiting to hit you on the break.

"They took their chances and we basically didn't. Their first goal involved a bit of luck and we had a couple of similar chances that didn't go in.

"One goal would have been nice to keep it in the balance."

Given Hassell's recent form, it appears likely he would be retained in the Olyroo squad and miss most of the finals series.

"Good luck to the kid. He deserves it but it's going to hurt us," Perin said.

ADELAIDE CITY: Petkovic, Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Hassell, Costanzo, Armour, Mennillo, Brazzale (Perin 73), Foster

UTS OLYMPIC: Gibson, Barrett, Ciantar, Tsekenis, Taliadros (Poirier 65), Tome (Augerinos 75), Ardene (Zelic 81), Meredith, Bajtlic, Edwards.



Milan Ivanovic: Stole the show. His experience was vital in Adelaide City's win.

MIXED FORTUNES FOR AUSSIES IN EUROPE

BY ROY HAY IN EUROPE

The closing stages of the league soccer season in Britain and Europe has brought mixed fortunes for Australians playing overseas.

For the two players in Croatia the season is still balanced on a knife edge. Last week their team Hajduk Split beat Mark Viduka's Croatia Zagreb by three goals to two in a see-sawing thriller, but Steve Horvat missed the match and Josip Skoko only came on in the last minute to help preserve the narrow lead. Hajduk, Croatia and Varteks are all in with a chance of winning the play-off series which will determine which team gets a chance to play in the European Champions' League in 1996-7 and there are two rounds to play.

In England, keeper Mark Bosnich has helped Aston Villa win the League Cup with a guaranteed entry to the UEFA Cup next season while another keeper Frank Talia will play with Swindon Town in Division One of the Endsleigh League following their win in Division Two.

David Oldfield's Luton Town is relegated to division Two, while Millwall's Jason van Blerk, Wolves Steve Corica and Reading's Andrew Bernal are or were all flirting with the drop. Reading's three-nil win over Wolves meant that Bernal's team stays up. Bernal, Bosnich, Paul Agostino and

Harry Kewell were in Chile recently with the Socceroos.

Paul Agostino's goalscoring feats and the defensive work of Shaun Murphy helped Bristol City and Notts County respectively to solid

positions in Division Two, while Doug Hodgson was in and out the team at Sheffield United which struggled for much of the year, but then improved rapidly at the end. Carl Veart's move from United to Crystal Palace means a place in the play-offs for the Premier League. My colleague Colin Benson is very impressed by Veart but says he has yet to win over the Palace fans. Lucas Neill has become established at Millwall, though Jimmy Nicholl is talking about wholesale changes next year, while Harry Kewell is fighting hard to gain a place at Leeds United where Howard Wilkinson will also be embarking on a major reconstruction in the close season.

In Switzerland, Aurelio Vidmar continues to perform well for Sion, hoping that he will be enough to earn his recall to Feyenoord in Holland for next year, where he is still registered. Sion finished second in the league to Grasshoppers of Zurich, drawing in the final round, and is in the semi-final of the Swiss Cup. Graham Arnold finished as fourth top goalscorer in Holland with 15 goals for NAC Breda,

having overcome the task of filling the boots of local hero Pierre van Hooijdonk, now banging in the goals for Celtic in Scotland. Tony Vidmar was a regular in defence for NAC and scored the odd goal as well.

In Belgium Paul Okon's Club Brugge is already certain of the championship with games still to play, though Okon has had to watch from the sidelines after a serious leg injury which kept him out of the Socceroos match with Scotland and may well interfere with what was expected to be a lucrative transfer to Italy in the close season. AC Milan was touted as being interested in the

talented libero. Another Australian defender George Kulscar has been a regular with Royal Antwerp which finished in mid-table behind Brugge. Kulscar also went to Chile with the Australian team and was on the bench in Scotland.

Neither Ned Zelic nor Mark Schwarzer has really made a big impact in Germany this season.

Zelic returned after a disastrous spell at Queens Park Rangers where for some reason he never really settled, though he had the most sympathetic and intelligent of managers in Ray Wilkins, who has unfortunately presided over QPR's relegation from the Premier League.



Aurelio Vidmar: Hoping to be recalled by Feyenoord.

COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL TURNER CUP

NSW QUALIFYING ROUND

Castle Hill 7 Model Farms 1, Pat Bros Granville 3 Bankstown Grammar 0, Arthur Phillip 3 Northmead 0, Sylvania 3 Woolooware 1, Dover Hts 3 Cranbrook 0, Maroubra 3 Vaucluse 0, Fairvale 2 Lurnea 0, Camden 3 Eagle Vale 0, The Rock 5 Billabong 2, Finley 3 Yanco Ag 0.

ROUND 1

North Sydney Boys 6 Cromer 0, Crestwood 3 Muirfield 0, Gilroy College 7 Normanhurst 1, Masada College 8 St Leos 0, Menai 3 Gymea 1, Kirrawee 8 St John Bosco 1, Cronulla 2 Endeavour 0, Port Hacking 6 Jannali 1, Hurstville Boys 4 Punchbowl Boys 1, JJ Cahill 6 Sydney Grammar 0, St Spyridon 2 Marist Bros Pagewood 1, Sydney Boys 5 Moriah College 0, Colo 2 Cranebrook 0, Pat Bros Blacktown 8 Rooty Hill 0, Prairiewood 11 Bass 0, James Busby 3 Moorbank 0, St Johns Park 3 Fairfield 0.

Manilla 3 Barraba 0, Warialda 6 MacIntyre 3, Duval 3 The Armidale School 0, Ashford 3 Glen Innes 0, Kempsey 0-4 St Pauls 0-3, Melville 3 Bowraville 0, Chatham 7 Forster 0, Taree 5 Wingham 1, Buladelah 7 Dungog 0, St Josephs 3 St Catherines 0, Cessnock 8 Muswellbrook 0, St Josephs Loch 11 Hunter Valley 0, Rutherford 2 Kurri Kurri 1, Nelson Bay 3 Irrawane 0, San Clement 4 Wallsend 0, St Phillips 3 Newcastle 0.

QUEENSLAND RESULTS QUALIFYING ROUND

Coolum 3 Sunshine Beach 0, St Johns Nambour 3 Christ Outreach 2, Beerwah 3 Coloundra 0, Canterbury College 4 St Queensland Inter 0.

ROUND 1

Mareeba 8 Mt Saint Bernard 0, Cairns 4 Smithfield 3, St Augustines 14 Trinity Bay 0, Peace Lutheran 6 Emmanuel 3, St Marys 3 Trinity Anglican 0, Innisfail 6 Good Counsel 1, Gilroy College 5 St Teresas 2, Middlemount 3 Mercy College 1, Maleny 3 Beerwah 2, Bridie Island 3 Morayfield 0, Toowoomba Grammar 2 Centenary Heights 1, Inglewood 4 Allora 1.

Blanco leaves legacy

BY PETER KRUPKA
OF AAP

New Olyroos coach Raul Blanco hopes West Adelaide's reputation as one of the national league's most entertaining sides will stay intact as he prepares to leave the club after four seasons as head coach.

The high-profile Argentinian-born coach was recruited by the Sharks at the start of the 1992 season to give the club, which craved stability and success, a chance to build a strong future at the sport's highest level.

"If anything, I would like to feel that we created a style and played in a way people liked," Blanco said.

"I would like West Adelaide to be known forever as a team that plays attractive soccer. In a small way, I hope I left that."

Blanco, who will be replaced by his assistant coach Adrian Santrac next year, landed the plum job as full-time Olyroos coach in February.

He coached the Sharks to the finals series in 1993 and 1995, and West President Harry Zacharoyannis said the Blanco years gave the club stability and an identity as well as a measure of on-field success.

Living in the shadow of Adelaide City, which fielded half the Australian national team through the early 1990s and competed consistently in the finals, made the job more difficult.

A sign of the club's instability was its

notorious record for keeping coaches.

Blanco took just over two seasons to overtake the record for most games in charge of the Sharks, passing the paltry record of 55 games set by Alan Vest between 1982 and 1983.

He was the 15th coach for the Sharks since it entered the national league in 1977 and the first to begin a third season.

"In 1993 the administration was committed to having a period of stability and that's why we had hunted someone like Raul," Zacharoyannis said.

"We're well satisfied with the job he's done. The club's turned around in its year-to-year performance and we're not the easybeats of old — we can hold our own with any club in the league."

West made a remarkable turn around in Blanco's first year leading the table for most of the regular season before petering out towards the end to finish fifth — knocked out by City in the semi-finals.

"That meteoric rise from 13th in the previous season to heading the table for so long was probably a major highlight of Raul's stay," Zacharoyannis said.

He said Blanco, who has coached in Australia since 1974 and been on the national coaching staff for the past 14 years, would leave the club knowing he gave its

INTERVIEW - ANTHONY CARBONE with Richard Kreider

Anthony Carbone (below), the first player to win a youth international match with a sudden-death goal back in the 1993 World Youth Championships, has returned home after a three year stint with English club Nottingham Forest.

He talks to ABSW writer Richard Kreider about a memorable experience.

RK: Your only first team appearance for Forest was the friendly at the WACA against the WA team last year. How disappointed are you that you never actually made the same breakthrough in England.

AC: It was frustrating. But such is the strength of a club like Forest, I was never able to play regularly even in the reserves. I still gained plenty of experience though and one player I was most impressed with at the club is Steve Stone.

RK: Was it difficult for you to settle in an unknown land, and did you manage to catch up with many Aussies in the UK?

AC: No, it wasn't hard. I lived with another player in my first year, but I had my own place after that.

My parents stayed with me the second season which helped me. With regards to other Australians, although Stan (Lazaridis) comes from Perth, I didn't know him that well. But I was always in contact with Shaun Murphy at Notts County and regularly saw Frank Talia at Blackburn and Paul Agostino at Bristol City.

RK: Eric Cantona has redeemed himself by being named Player of the Year for 1995/96. What are your thoughts of him?

AC: He's a world class act. He virtually won the championship for United single handed, especially after having scored a lot of crucial goals for them.

RK: Is it beyond Australia to win an Olympic Gold Medal in soccer?

AC: Yes, unless we make our game more professional, have the players train every day, improve the standard of the grounds etc.

RK: You must be pleased Perth have finally made the National League.

AC: It's about time isn't it? Perth has some great players, now they can gain national recognition. This will be a different ball game for the players, and it will take a couple of seasons before they settle down and start making a serious challenge for honours.



Eagles went through all this and now they are reaping the rewards. Glory haven't got a ground yet and the season starts in five months, so I guess they still have a few other important things to sort out before they start chasing the silverware.

RK: Who is your tip for the FA Cup and the European Championship?

AC: It's going to be a great FA Cup Final, and although most people are going for the Red Devils, I'm tipping a 2-1 win to Liverpool. As for Euro 96, I don't think England will make it, they struggled in their last two friendlies. I reckon Italy will go well.

RK: I believe Sampdoria is the team you follow, you must be disappointed to say the least on missing out playing them when they get here to play the Glory at the end of the month.

AC: My main priority is the Olyroos side. Of course I am disappointed, but that's football. The home leg of the qualifying games are around the beginning of June so it will be impossible to fit the Sampdoria game in as well.

RK: Where does Anthony Carbone go from here?

AC: I'll see how I go with the Olyroos' first then take it from there. I understand the squad will be reduced to 18 this week, hopefully I am selected for the qualifying games and then of course Atlanta.

I wouldn't mind going back to Europe to see how far I can actually go. Not England, perhaps somewhere like Holland. Having said that, I still wouldn't discount the Glory.

Professionalism in two years

BY PETER KRUPKA

The dream of Australian soccer becoming professional would be accomplished within two years, according to Adelaide City President Fred Lenzi (right).

"We need to push to have professional teams much quicker," Lenzi said.

His club's failed bid to join the Malaysian league last season showed it was willing to make the boldest moves to secure a professional future.

"We would dearly love to think that we would be one of the first clubs to go professional and I think we will see professional teams within two years — it may not be the whole of the league, but at least the top four teams."

He said if the professional revolution was not triggered by Soccer Australia, through some kind of major sponsorship deal, it would be initiated by the clubs and admitted the weaker sides, those struggling to stay afloat in the present system, would feel the squeeze.

A gradual erosion of the standard of the game in Australia has been blamed on the unavoidable departure of the playing talent to professional leagues overseas.

But Lenzi said Australian soccer was set to benefit by the return of its stars which would give the sport the higher profile and named players it lacked.

"We're (Australians) only young in the situation of players going overseas but the revolution is finally coming around when players go away but will come back and offer their services to their country again."

"That's where the future



strength of the Australian league may be."

Lenzi said the positive impact the return of Frank Farina made on Brisbane Strikers and the sport in Queensland this year was a perfect example, and added he hoped to see similar returns to the Zebras by players like Carl Veart and Aurelio Vidmar.

"Now that it's started, we can hopefully expect one or two players coming back from overseas each year and playing for four or five years," he said.

"That's when we'll see a really good league."

*City coach John Perin has the support of Lenzi to continue his reign "for as long as he wants."

The Zebras do not have a policy of signing coaches to contracts and Perin has admitted his future was in the hands of the board.

But Lenzi, himself in his first year as president, could not be happier with Perin's performance following in the footsteps of respected coach Zoran Matic.

"As far as I'm concerned, John has done a more than adequate job with the team this year to warrant him staying on next year."

"The board will make the final decision but my personal view is John Perin has a coaching job there as long as he wants it."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD KREIDER

BAYWATER BACKLINE STILL UNBEATEN

Surprise package Bayswater City Panthers, have now gone four games without conceding a goal, plus leading scorer Robbie Peruzza preserved his goal a game form, after their 2-0 triumph against a lacklustre Western Knights at Baywater Oval last Saturday.

Peruzza was also instrumental in the Panthers' opening up the right flank.

Upon reaching the Knights goal zone, the nippy winger cut inside, breezed past a

defender and squared the ball to Alan Mackenzie who

released an unstoppable shot past Richard Gaiton.

Bayswater went further

ahead sixteen minutes later

when Paul McVittie put

Peruzza through a

disorganised Knights

backline to score with

relative ease.

The Premier Division's leading goalscorer came

close to making it ten for the season in the 69th minute when a surge into the visitors goalmouth ended with his final effort crashing onto the cross-bar.

The only scoring opportunity for the visitors came in the 18th minute when Arlton D'Souza set up Eugen Singerorzon with a one on one with goalkeeper Robert Scarparolo, but the latter emerged the victor.

MACIES MAINTAIN MOMENTUM

Stirling Macedonia kept up their pursuit of the Premier League front-runners with a 2-1 win over Swan IC at Macedonia Park. Swan also had the misfortune of having defender Michael Ross stretchered off five minutes before the break and rushed to hospital with a serious knee injury. Swan's lively frontman Damien Todorovic compensated for squandering a second

minute miss, by finding the net four minutes later after Greg Cicanese pounced on a defensive error and placed the ball into the striker's path 15 metres out.

The Lions equalised in the 27th minute with a curling freekick that found the head of Robbie Milevski.

The second-half was all Macedonia. A minute after the restart, Steve Bourne glanced a Dean Nicolaou corner to the back-post where Peter Murphy was on hand to tap home past Luka Nicora.

After an hours play, shots from Milevski and Bourne were both scrambled off the line, Alex Cummings struck the side-netting five minutes later and then Milevski eventually found the net five minutes further on, only to be judged off-side. After Mick Da Re sensationally cleared a close-range shot from Milevski in the 85th, Nicora was again beaten two minutes into injury time, but an offside decision this time denied Steve Bourne.

INGLEWOOD SNATCH LATER WINNER

Sensational goalkeeping by former Adelaide City star Willie McNally, and a masterful midfield performance from Anthony Carbone, was not enough to prevent Inglewood Falcons from beating Sorrento 1-0 at the Kiev Sports Ground.

It is a third straight loss for the Gulls, a predicament that must concern coach Tom Kilkelly, especially if they also slip up against lowly Kingsway next week.

The opening forty-five minutes was mostly enjoyed by Sorrento. Their first break came in the 24th minute starting from a penetrating run by Carbone. The former Youth International and Nottingham Forest player then side-stepped a couple of players laid the ball off to Neil Blunt who by the

slenderest of margins, missed with a deft lob.

After an hours play, Sorrento surrendered a great deal of midfield impetus when Carbone left the field with a leg strain. The result being Inglewood were able to edge their way into a dominant position and it was only the reflexes of McNally that unjustifiably, kept his side in the match - right up until a free-kick in the second minute of injury time. Perth Glory striker Paul Strudwick took the kick and curled it superbly into the top left-hand side of the goal that gave McNally absolutely no chance.

Meanwhile, Kingsway Olympic collected their first point of the season with a 2-2 draw against Floreat Athena at Kingsway Reserve. Olympic's goals by Steve Riberi and James Afros were cancelled out by strikes from Vas Kalogeracos and Taki Tzoganos.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Stirling Macedonia	2	Swan IC	1
Bayswater Panthers	2	Western Knights	0
Olympic Kingsway	2	Floreat Athena	2
Inglewood Falcons	1	Sorrento	0
Perth SC	2	S Dalmatinac	1

RESERVES

Stirling Macedonia	2	Swan IC	2
Bayswater Panthers	6	Western Knights	1
Olympic Kingsway	2	Floreat Athena	1
Inglewood Falcons	0	Sorrento	2

UNDER 18's

Stirling Macedonia	1	Swan IC	5
Bayswater Panthers	2	Western Knights	0
Olympic Kingsway	0	Floreat Athena	4
Inglewood Falcons	0	Sorrento	3

FIRST DIVISION

Dianella WE	2	Rockingham City	2
Balcatta	1	Joondalup City	1
Cockburn United	1	Bas Caledonian	3
Fremantle City	4	North Lake Espanol	2
Ashfield Bunbury	2	Southside United	1
Perth City	2	Morley Windmills	1

SECOND DIVISION

Melville Corinthians	3	Western Yugal	3</



QUEENSLAND
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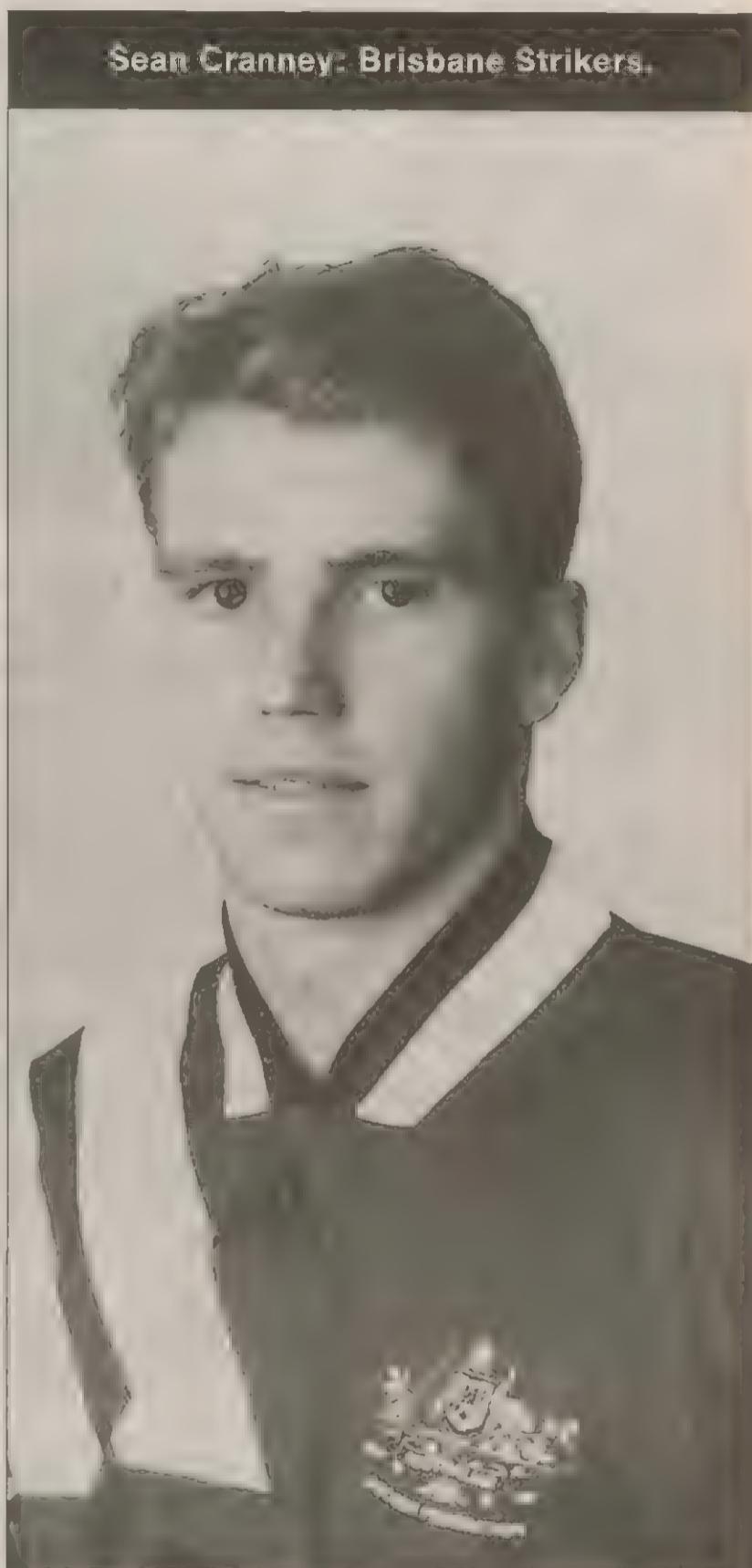
XXXXX League



Due to technical difficulties we are unable to bring you the regular features.



Frank Farina: Brisbane Strikers and Australia



Sean Cranney: Brisbane Strikers.

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE			
This Week's Matches...			
Friday, May 10			
Grange Thistle	v	Rochedale Rovers	Wallace J Dann Oval 8.30pm
Sunday, May			
North Star	v	Coalstar	Perry Park 2.30pm
Taringa Rovers	v	Beenleigh	Jack Speare Park 2.45pm
Brisbane Lions	v	Brisbane City	Lions Stadium 2.45pm
Eastern suburbs	v	Nerang	Perry Park 12.30pm
Wynnum	v	Pine Rivers	Carmichael Park 2.45pm



Clint Bolton

Northern New South Wales

NBN FIRST DIVISION	
Highfields	1 Weston Workers
Weston Workers Bluebells	2 Hamilton Warriors
Broadmeadow Magic	2 Maitland Magpies
Deloraine Eagles	1 Cessnock Hornets
Wallsend Red Devils	4 Pasminco Roosters

NBN RESERVE GRADE	
Highfields	1 Weston Workers Bears
Weston Workers Bluebells	0 Hamilton Warriors
Broadmeadow Magic	2 Maitland Magpies
Deloraine Eagles	1 Cessnock Hornets
Wallsend Red Devils	4 Pasminco Roosters

NNSW TOOHEYS LEAGUE	
Belmont-Swansea	1 Stockton Sharks
South Cardiff Gunners	2 Dudley-Redhead United
Singleton Strikers	4 Lambton Jaffas
Belmont Tigers	0 Thornton Park
Budgewoi Budgies	0 Toronto-Awaba
Beresfield United	1 Manning Mustangs

NNSW RESERVE GRADE	
Belmont-Swansea	3 Stockton Sharks
South Cardiff Gunners	2 Dudley-Redhead United
Singleton Strikers	3 Lambton Jaffas
Belmont Tigers	1 Thornton Park
Budgewoi Budgies	2 Toronto-Awaba
Beresfield United	2 Manning Mustangs

NBN SOCCER LEAGUE	
FIRST GRADE	
P	W D L F A Pts
Weston Workers Bears	6 5 1 0 20 5 16
Wallsend Red Devils	6 5 0 1 12 3 15
Highfields Wolves	6 4 1 1 16 3 13
Hamilton Warriors	6 4 0 2 11 8 12
Maitland Magpies	6 2 2 2 12 13 8
Broadmeadow Magic	6 2 1 3 13 12 7
Deloraine Eagles	6 2 1 3 4 6 7
Westy Workers	6 1 1 4 10 19 4
Cessnock Hornets	6 0 2 4 6 17 2
Pasminco Roosters	6 0 1 5 4 21 1

RESERVES	
P	W D L F A Pts
Wallsend Red Devils	6 5 0 1 16 10 15
Weston Workers Bears	6 4 1 1 13 6 13
Hamilton Warriors	6 4 0 2 14 10 12
Deloraine Eagles	6 3 2 1 11 8 11
Highfields Wolves	6 3 1 2 11 5 10
Westy Workers	6 3 0 3 7 6 9
Broadmeadow Magic	6 2 2 2 12 11 8
Maitland Magpies	6 2 0 4 6 12 6
Cessnock Hornets	6 0 1 5 4 14 1
Pasminco Roosters	6 0 1 5 3 15 1

TOOHEYS 2nd DIVISION	
FIRST GRADE	
P	W D L F A Pts
Dudley-Redhead	8 6 0 2 24 8 18
Cardiff Gunners	8 5 2 1 23 9 17
Bel Swansea Swans	8 5 1 2 19 11 17
Budgewoi Budgies	8 4 3 1 16 8 15
Beresfield United	8 4 1 3 9 10 13
Manning Mustangs	8 4 0 4 19 14 12
Singleton Strikers	8 3 2 3 17 16 11
Toronto Awaba Stags	8 2 4 2 11 15 10
Thornton Park	8 2 2 4 7 19 8
Lambton Jaffas	8 1 3 4 10 17 6
Stockton Sharks	8 2 0 6 15 23 6
Belmont Tigers	8 1 0 7 5 25 3

RESERVE GRADE	
P	W D L F A Pts
Dudley-Redhead	8 6 2 0 27 11 20
Lambton Jaffas	8 6 0 2 19 15 18
Toronto Awaba Stags	8 5 2 1 28 13 17
Cardiff Gunners	8 4 3 1 23 10 15
Manning Mustangs	8 4 0 4 14 16 12
Beresfield United	8 3 2 3 14 12 11
Budgewoi Budgies	8 3 2 3 11 17 7
Bel Swansea Swans	8 3 1 5 12 17 7
Singleton Strikers	8 2 1 5 12 17 7
Thornton Park	8 1 2 5 10 19 5
Belmont Tigers	8 1 2 5 9 26 5
Stockton Sharks	8 1 1 6 4 20 4

Northern NSW results, tables and stories will be published in ABSW throughout the winter sports period.



BREAKERS RETURN A MIXED BAG

BY JAI MCDERMOT

In losing the last home game against Wollongong City, the 'new' Newcastle Breakers earned themselves this season's wooden spoon.

A dubious honour though it may be, there has been plenty of good to come out of the Novocastrians National League return. ABSW looks back at some of the highs and lows of the Breakers season 1995/96.

The most obvious positive aspect for Newcastle was the emergence of some of the young, local talent. Limited budgets, a largely diminished market and club policy led to the majority of John Kosmina's squad coming from the Newcastle area.

The rise of Clayton Zane, Glenn Moore and Scott Thomas was the reward for the Breakers faith and finally given some responsibility and scope, we saw something to Troy Halpin's potential. Surely the Breakers have the nucleus of a competitive side in future years.

Kosmina also acquitted himself well this season, in his first National League appointment.

'Kossie' attacked the job with the same vigour and passion he played with. Aside from all else, the former Socceroo has instilled a sense of pride and self respect into his squad and Newcastle football.

The fans came back, perhaps the most important thing for a club to survive is to get people in the gate. Despite their lowly position the Breakers did just that maintaining a healthy average of 3,490 a game, including a season high 6,837 against UTS Olympic.

The Breakers Johnnie Walker Cup run also provided much encouragement. Struggling pre-Christmas with injuries and form, the Novocastrians used the cup format wonderfully well with young players Thomas and Harry James chiefly responsible for their sides appearance in the final.

Best of all they showed a remarkable

capacity to recover from setbacks and the upturn in form post Christmas bears testimony to that.

There was Jason Bennett formerly Warringah Dolphin who finally broke into the top level and went about showing why he should stay there. Always a concern for opposition defenders, Bennett ended as Newcastle's leading goalscorer with a season tally of eight.

Naturally though, there were low points, like the Canberra Cosmos fiasco for instance 4-0 in front after an hour, the Breakers capitulation to draw 5-5 must surely rate as one of the most astonishing performances in memory.

When 'Kossie' continuously spoke of naivety and concentration, maybe this is what he was talking about.

One player unlucky to be mentioned in the low points of the season is midfielder Garry Wilson (left). After a cracking start to the season, Wilson succumbed to a nagging groin injury, undergoing an operation which saw him out for two months.

Wilson recovered quickly and even came back earlier than expected returning in a youth game. The 24 year old reportedly felt good until the last tackle of the game, suffering knee ligament damage which effectively ended his season.

With the Breakers return to the top flight the Steel Cities rivalry was revived. Unfortunately the rivalry was of the wooden spoon variety.

The Wolves completed the treble over the Novocastrians, with new boy Tony Perinich discovering an unnerving ability to destroy the red and blue, scoring in each game.

So there it is while the Ericsson Cup top six fight out the major honours, Newcastle reflects on their return to top company.

Season 1996/97 promises better things for Newcastle Breakers with recruitment plans underway and a squad of youngsters with a full season behind them.

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

BY PHIL MURPHY

Bulli proved real mud-runners to beat Wollongong premier league champions Port Kembla in driving rain at Wetherill Park on Sunday.

Strikers Rod Paterson and John Brown grabbed the goals but Port Kembla certainly had their chances.

Winger Matt Borg missed two very good scoring opportunities in the second half when Bulli led 1-0.

Lysaghts are now left alone in top place after outclassing Balgownie 6-0 at home on Saturday. Noel Spencer back in the Lysaghts side on loan from Wollongong City scored a hat-trick.

In other games, Wollongong Olympic fought back from two goals down to beat Fernhill 3-2 while Figtree providing the action.

Port Kembla started the Waratah Cup off with a 2-0 home win over State first division side Dulwich Hill.

Matt Borg and Robbie Davies scored the goals but Port Kembla had key defender Robbie Cazzolli sent off.

Cazzolli has been cleared to continue playing in the local league but will be suspended for his team's next Cup tie.

Port Kembla have a very strong squad with the prospect of Jon Angelucci and Jeremy Harris returning when Marconi have finished their Ericsson Cup commitments.

Relegated from premier league at the end of last season, Wollongong White Eagles have made their intentions very clear. Little wonder when you check out their

It includes former Wollongong city players David Green, Goran Trajceski and Danny Petkovic along with Lupcho Dimov, who had a season in the national league with Wollongong Macedonia. Coach Chris Agno has no doubt his players will bounce right back into the premier league.

The Eagles drew 2-2 with main rivals Kembla on Saturday.

Wollongong City players who had planned to make a few dollars out on loan during the winter have been stunned by a Wolves ultimatum.

The club board have decided they won't allow any senior players to play in the ISA during the off-season.

One player stung by the decision was captain and midfielder Matt Horsley.

Horsley was all set to return to his old junior club, Balgownie, for a winter stint.

He was to have played against Lysaghts on Saturday.

Lube the Lion is mascot for struggling State super league side Illawarra Lions. When the Lions met Leichhardt Tigers at Lambert Park recently, Illawarra players were stunned when their mascot turned out as Antonio the Tiger.

So much for club loyalty.

It has also been revealed that Lube, Antonio, or whoever, is also the wolf, mascot for the Wollongong City Wolves.



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

Central Coast	1	Blacktown City	0
Adamstown Rosebud	P	Warringah Dolphins	P
St George Saints	5	Bonnyrigg WE	1
Illawarra Lions	P	Bankstown City Lions	P
Canterbury Berries	P	Leichhardt Tigers	P
Parramatta Eagles	P	Sutherland Sharks	P
Macarthur Rams	0	Rockdale City Suns	1

UNDER 21

Central Coast	2	Blacktown City	2
Adamstown Rosebud	P	Warringah Dolphins	P
St George Saints	P	Bonnyrigg WE	P
Illawarra Lions	P	Bankstown City Lions	P
Canterbury Berries	P	Leichhardt Tigers	P
Parramatta Eagles	P	Sutherland Sharks	P
Macarthur Rams	5	Rockdale City Suns	2

SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Adamstown R'buds	12	8	1	3	19	12	25
Sutherland Sharks	12	6	6	0	20	10	24
Central Coast	13	7	3	3	23	18	24
Leichhardt Tigers	12	7	2	3	19	13	23
Warringah Dolphins	12	5	5	2	23	12	20
Parramatta Eagles	12	6	2	4	21	13	20
Bankstown City	12	6	1	5	27	19	19
Blacktown City	13	5	4	4	17	11	19
Bonnyrigg WE	13	4	5	4	28	30	17
St George Saints	13	4	3	6	16	22	15
Rockdale City Suns	13	4	3	6	19	26	15
Canterbury Berries	12	2	3	7	18	27	9
Illawarra Lions	12	1	4	7	12	26	7
Macarthur Rams	13	1	0	12	5	28	3

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE

Auburn United	P	Dulwich Hill	P
Stanmore Hawks	P	Bathurst '75	P
Penrith Panthers	P	Mt Druitt Town Rangers	P
Ryde City	P	Belmore Hercules	P
Mt Pritchard	P	Fairfield Bulls	P
Sthn Minotaurs	P	Sydney Cosmos	P
Hills United	P	West Wanderers	P

UNDER 21

Auburn United	P	Dulwich Hill	P
Stanmore Hawks	P	Bathurst '75	P
Penrith Panthers	P	Mt Druitt Town Rangers	P
Ryde City	P	Belmore Hercules	P
Mt Pritchard	P	Fairfield Bulls	P
Sthn Minotaurs	P	Sydney Cosmos	P
Hills United	P	West Wanderers	P

UNDER 18

Auburn United	P	Dulwich Hill	P
Stanmore Hawks	P	Bathurst '75	P
Penrith Panthers	P	Mt Druitt Town Rangers	P
Ryde City	P	Belmore Hercules	P
Mt Pritchard	P	Fairfield Bulls	P
Sthn Minotaurs	P	Sydney Cosmos	P
Hills United	P	West Wanderers	P

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sydney Cosmos	8	5	2	1	20	6	17
Bathurst '75	8	5	2	1	14	7	17
Penrith Panthers	8	4	3	1	17	10	15
Hills United	8	5	0	3	14	13	15
Belmore Hercules	8	3	3	2	17	11	12
Ryde City	8	3	3	2	15	12	12
Auburn United	8	3	3	2	19	18	12
Mt Druitt Town	8	3	1	4	13	23	10
Mt Pritchard	8	2	3	3	13	13	9
Dulwich Hill	8	2	3	3	8	9	9
Sthn Minotaurs	8	2	2	4	9	14	8
West Wanderers	8	2	2	4	9	18	8
Fairfield Bulls	8	2	1	5	12	13	7
Stanmore Hawks	8	0	2	6	8	21	2

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE

Greystanes	P	Parramatta City	P
Uni of NSW	2	Sydney District	2
Granville G'island	P	Alexandria Warr.	P
Concord Juniors	2	Hurstville
Liverpool City	0	Trasandinos

CENTRAL COAST 1 BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 0

Central Coast Leagues' Club Coasties continued their recent good run of results with a lacklustre 1-0 victory over Blacktown City Demons. The game was played before a remarkably good crowd considering the conditions that prevailed throughout, wet underfoot and more rain falling.

The game opened with both teams content to probe for weaknesses in the opposition defence. The Coast attack tended to find very few opportunities against a well organised defence whose distribution out of their own half was exceptionally good in the wet conditions. Scoring chances were very rare in the

and managed to get the ball in behind the Demon defence on several occasions but Crawley was determined not to be beaten.

Whereas in the first half the Coasties had been content to build up down one side of the park they now started to switch play which had the effect of unsettling the Blacktown fullbacks. With the crowd constantly urging them on the Coasties went forward on every opportunity in search of the first goal.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 56th minute when young Central Coast midfielder, Nathan Byrne, received a ball from the left on the edge of the 18 yard box and drove low into the left hand corner of the net through a crowded goal area.

The goal sparked the Coasties into action and they completely dominated proceedings for the next 15 to 20 minutes by continually taking the game to Blacktown. A great chance was missed in the 60th minute when David Melverton shot over the bar.

Blacktown had by far the better of the game in the last 10 to 15 minutes during which time the Central Coast defence was often forced to scramble and young keeper, Mathew Whitelaw made several good saves under the greasy conditions.

The best chance for the Demons came right on the final whistle. Nathan Tring raided down the left, cut inside and unleashed a tremendous, dipping shot which beat the keeper and shaved the crossbar.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 14

SATURDAY 11TH MAY

Blacktown City Demons v Rockdale City Suns

Gabbie Stadium, 6.00pm

Central Coast v Warringah Dolphins

Plum Park, 6.00pm

SUNDAY 12TH MAY

St George Saints v Adamstown Rosebud

St George Stadium, 3.00pm

Illawarra Lions v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Brandon Park, 3.00pm

Canterbury Marrickville v Bankstown City Lions

Serbian Centre, 3.00pm

Parramatta Eagles v Leichhardt Tigers

Melita Stadium, 3.00pm

Macarthur Rams v Sutherland Sharks

Lynwood Park, 3.00pm

ST GEORGE SAINTS 5 BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 1

St George Saints ploughed through the wet to slam Bonnyrigg White Eagles by five goals to one. Bonnyrigg had conceded just 25 goals before the game but and were only 2-0 down at halftime.

Coach Peter Katholos got on the score sheet in the 70th minute before Steve Karavataki put away his second in the 83rd.

Mark Hoenselaars scored a consolation goal for the visitors with only moments to go.

MACARTHUR RAMS 0 ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 1

Macarthur can't take a trick as they slid to their twelfth loss in the opening half of the season against fellow strugglers Rockdale City Suns.

The youthful Rams held out until the 83rd minute when Eric Williams scored the decisive and only goal of the game.

GIANT KILLERS STRIKE

BY VINCE BATTIATO

As NSW's very own FA-Cup style competition heads into its final stages, there is one fairytale giant-killing story to parody its more successful British counterparts.

Soccer NSW Federation Division Four boasts Sydney University, a small club which relies on partial funding by the University and efforts by its own playing staff to survive, have progressed to the fourth round of the \$50,000 Waratah Cup.

After never progressing further than Round Two in its history, Sydney University have pulled off some remarkable victories in the Cup.

After a staggering 9-1 victory against Division Three Colo Colo, University went on to defeat Alexandria Warriors of Division Two 3-2.

Already a best performance by the club, University trekked out to Fairfield Bulls of Division One expecting the game of their lives.

It was. They won 3-0. So the club which retained less than a dozen of its playing staff of last season and which has bought together the coaching partnership of Jim Gallacher and myself is surging forward in NSW's pinnacle Cup competition.

GRANVILLE G'ISLAND P ALEXANDRIA WARRIOR P HURSTVILLE P TRASANDINOS P PRAIRIEWOOD UNITED P UNDER 18

Greystanes P Parramatta City P

Uni of NSW 3 Sydney District P

Granville G'island P Alexandria Warr.

Concord Juniors P Hurstville P

Liverpool City 8 Trasandinos P

AC United P Prairiewood United P

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE

P Sydney District P

P Greystanes P

P Concord Jnrs P

P Trasandinos P

P Hurstville P

P Alexandria Warrior P

P Prairiewood P

P AC United P

P Uni of NSW P

P Granville G'island P

P Parramatta City P

P Uni of NSW P

Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

West
Adelaide

RICHARD ALLAGICH



Front Row from Left to Right: Peter Tsakenis, **Robbie Ironside**, Carlos Gonzalez, Kimon Taliadoros, Alistair Edwards, Derek Poimer, Walter Ardone. Back Row: Steve Darby (Ass. Coach) Con Paradisis, Chris Slater, Ivan Zelic, George Bouhoutsos, Mike Gibson, Elias Augerinos, Adam Ciantar, Ralph Bove, David Ratcliffe (Coach).

Front Row: Chris Minopoulos (Physio), Nick Meredith, George Sorras, Norm Tome, David Barrett, (Captain) Kris Trajanovski, Milan Blagojevic. Mascot: George Manis.



Victorian Ladders

**PREMIER LEAGUE FIRSTS**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Suns. Georgies	13	11	2	0	24	8	35
Bent. Greens	13	10	1	2	30	11	31
Altona Magic	13	9	1	3	28	12	28
Heidelberg Utd	13	8	3	2	33	15	27
Thomast. Zebras	13	6	3	4	21	18	21
Bulleen Lions	13	5	4	4	16	13	19
Nt. Gee. Warriors	13	6	1	6	16	21	19
Gr. Gully Cav.	13	4	5	4	17	17	17
Box Hill Inter	13	4	2	7	18	28	14
Pt Melb. Sharks	13	2	6	5	23	27	12
St Alb. Saints	13	3	3	7	13	19	12
Fawkner Blues	13	2	3	8	12	24	9
Spr. City Vales	13	2	1	10	14	33	7
Albion Redsox	13	1	1	11	10	29	4

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bent. Greens	12	10	0	2	36	17	30
Pt Melb. Sharks	13	9	2	2	32	14	29
Bulleen Lions	12	7	2	3	28	15	23
Thomast. Zebras	12	7	1	4	31	17	22
Heidelberg Utd	12	7	0	5	35	28	21
Box Hill Inter	13	5	4	4	23	21	19
Suns. Georgies	13	4	5	4	21	25	17
Fawkner Blues	13	5	2	6	19	33	17
Albion Redsox	12	5	1	6	24	34	16
Gr Gully Caval.	13	4	3	6	25	23	15
Spr. City Vales	13	3	4	6	31	29	13
Altona Magic	12	4	1	7	25	32	13
St Alb. Saints	13	1	5	7	11	22	8
Nt. Gee. Warriors	13	2	0	11	16	47	6

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sp. White Eagles	7	5	1	1	17	5	16
West. Suburbs	7	4	3	0	7	2	15
Kingston City	7	4	2	1	9	5	14
C'don City Dons	7	4	1	2	16	8	13
Lalor Utd	7	4	0	3	22	11	12
Preston Lions	7	3	3	1	11	7	12
Werribee City	7	3	1	3	9	8	10
Moorabbin City	7	3	1	3	10	11	10
Richmond	7	1	6	0	7	6	9
Don'ster Rovers	7	2	2	3	10	12	8
Northcote City	7	1	2	4	5	10	5
Westgate	7	1	2	4	6	13	5
Broadmeadows	7	1	1	5	6	18	4
Glen Eira City	7	0	1	6	4	23	1

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Richmond	7	5	2	0	16	4	17
Moorabbin City	6	5	1	0	14	5	16
Lalor United	6	5	0	1	16	7	15
Croydon City	7	4	1	2	12	5	13
Don'ster Rovers	7	4	0	3	18	8	12
Preston Lions	7	4	0	3	12	9	12
Werribee City	7	3	2	2	11	9	11
Northcote City	7	3	1	3	11	10	10
Kingston City	7	2	2	3	13	12	8
Sp. White Eagles	7	2	0	5	18	20	6
Westgate	6	2	0	4	6	20	6
West. Suburbs	5	1	1	3	10	16	4
Broadmeadows	6	0	1	5	4	15	1
Glen Eira City	7	0	1	6	8	29	1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sth Dandenong	7	5	1	1	19	8	16
Westvale	7	5	0	2	27	9	15
Altona East	7	4	2	1	12	6	14
Ess. Brun. Royals	7	5	2	2	8	5	11
Altona City	7	3	2	2	8	8	11
Knox City	7	3	2	2	6	9	11
Regent Bulla	7	2	4	1	6	4	10
Waverley City	7	2	3	2	9	11	9
East Richmond	6	2	1	3	10	6	7
Nunawading City	7	1	3	3	6	15	6
Oakleigh	7	1	3	3	5	20	6

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bell Park	6	1	2	3	9	10	5
Frankston Pines	7	0	5	2	7	10	5
Mooroolbark	7	1	0	6	2	13	3

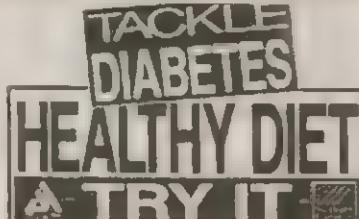
RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Frank. Pines	7	6	1	0	17	3	19
Waverley City	7	5	0	2	24	9	15
Altona City	7	5	0	2	26	13	15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Monbulk	7	2	2	3	12	10	8
Seaford Utd	7	2	2	3	12	14	8
Geelong	7	2	2	3	11	27	8
Corio	7	1	1	5	6	12	4

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION 1**FIRSTS**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melton	6	5	1	0			

**SUNSHINE 1
GREEN GULLY 0****BY JOHN RIGAS**

In the Maltese derby Sunshine Georgies defeated Green Gully Cavaliers in controversial fashion when they were awarded a penalty four minutes into injury time at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday.

According to referee Steve McEwan, Sunshine top goalscorer Juan Nilo was fouled in the area and awarded a penalty. It seemed that Nilo played for the penalty, took the spotkick himself and made no mistake.

Sunshine should have taken

the lead early on when Anthony Cassar laid the ball on for Chris Dagiaras who unleashed a rocket like shot which struck the crossbar in the ninth minute.

Green Gully coach Chris Taylor was very upset after the game. He mentioned that Juan Nilo took a dive and should have been given a yellow card for his actions.

Up until then Taylor thought that referee McEwan had a good game.

Sunshine boss Willie Vassallo replied that his team did enough to win the derby game.

GEORGIES: Wardle,

Kanesoulis, Cassar, Dragicevic, Filed, Aretis, Nilo, Dagiaras, Tsirtsakis (Markovski), McMinimee (De Plaza), De Bono.

CAVALIERS: Vella, Spiteri, Cimino, Douglas, Chetcuti, Waddell, Suric (Scoble), Brown (Neceski), Babic, Genovesi, Crodden.

VOTES: 3-Vella (Cavaliers), Chetcuti (Cavaliers), 1-Dagiaras (Georgies).

REFEREE: Steve McEwan.

**THOMASTOWN 0
ALTONA 1****BY NICHOLAS TZARFERIS**

A memorable performance between the goalposts by Altona Magic goalkeeper Darren McGrath, kept Altona alive all afternoon and gave them the chance to sneak a late winner.

McGrath was clearly the games best player, continuously frustrating the Zebra attacks by saving everything that came his way.

Thomastown had the majority of play but were beaten after Tom Markovski headed in a 77th minute winner.

Markovski loomed at the far post to meet a Chris Emovski free kick and from close range nodded the ball into the back of the net via the goal post.

The Zebras were dealt a blow when midfielder Seb Emmanuele came off injured early in the game and again when Ransford Banini, who has played in attack, limped to the bench in the second period.

ZEBRAS: Gonzalez, Banini (Bichler), Angelovski, Karic, Della Rocca, Emmanuele (Cuculevski), Gnjidic, Tricarico, Mazzini, Iacovitti, Ngata.

MAGIC: McGrath, Atanasovski, Tasevski, Runje, Markovski, Micevski, Ruzmir, Emovski, Petrov, Beccinovski, Georgopoulos.

VOTES: 3-McGrath (Magic), 2-Tricarico (Zebras), 1-Markovski (Magic). **REFEREE:** Nestor Zachariadis.

**BOX HILL 1
BULLEEN 2**

BY ANTHONY PELUSO
A Dale White header in the 75th minute, ensured a 2-1 victory for Buleen Lions against Box Hill at Wembley

Park and gave new coach Andy Bozikas, who replaced Peter Ollerton midweek, a good start to his coaching stint at Buleen.

As early as the first minute, Box Hill could have opened the scoring through Alan Roodhouse whose angled shot beat Jeff Oliver, but unfortunately it shaved the post.

But youngster Robert Liparoti, opened the scoring for Buleen in the eighth minute after heading in the ball from a corner kick. Twelve minutes later, George Slifkas could have increased Buleens lead with an outrageous shot which rattled the crossbar.

But against the run of play, Steve Guscic equalised for Box Hill, in the 27th minute after a goalmouth scramble. After that, neither side could go into the lead at half time.

During the second half, both teams had the chance to score with Buleens Robert Stojcevski and Pat Giaccherini shooting over the bar. In the early part of the second half Gary Frezzini, shot just wide for Inter after a good solo run.

Then in the 75th minute, White scored the winning goal after he latched onto a cross from Anthony Grbac and planted an accurate angled header between Sean Keogh and the post to give Buleen a deserved three points.

INTER: Keogh, Pansino, Tartaglia, Lennon, Dal Ben, Inglese, Guscic (Frezzini), Tsakiris, Marcin (Chirico), Roodhouse, Petrakos.

LIONS: Olver, Valentic, Stojcevski, Tsiakos, Slifkas, Sonsini, White, Giaccherini (Di Iorio), Grbac, Everett, Liparoti.

VOTES: 3-Tsiakos (Lions), 2-White (Lions), 1-Inglese (Inter). **REFEREE:** Gerry Connolly.

**BENTLEIGH 1
HEIDELBERG 0
BY ROD BOWLES**

Bentleigh Greens continued their unbeaten run with an impressive 1-0 victory over Heidelberg United in the Greek derby game on Sunday.

Striker Zoran Todorovski

on loan from the Morwell

Falcons sealed the victory for the Greens in the 16th minute when he headed in a pass from classy playmaker Ike Alagiozidis from close range.

Both teams had numerous scoring chances throughout the

afternoon the best one coming from Alagiozidis when his free kick struck the crossbar but there was no Bentleigh player to pounce on the loose ball.

United's best chance came when a Bobby Despotovski indirect freekick also struck the frame of the goal but the was no Heidelberg player to put away the free kick.

GREENS: Laumets, Drakos, T. Constantinou, Theorou, Micheil (J. Constantinou), Crivari, Kourkoutzelos, Kalimeris (Charalambous), Todorovski, Alagiozidis, Lutton (Kotsopoulos).

UNITED: Clarke, Tsoumerkas, Fak, Scott, Obradovic (Hastie), Georgiadis, Karkaletis, Kiratzoglou, McNicol (Hasler), Vlahos, Despotovski.

VOTES: 3-Thearous (Greens), 2-Clarke (Warriors), 1-Todorovski (Greens).

**ST ALBANS 0
FAWKNER 1****BY ZORAH MILENKOVSKI**

Fawkner Blues produced another gusty performance, to secure another important three points with a 1-0 win over St Albans Saints.

In the 18th minute Fawkner captain Tony Schipano opened the scoring after Michael Branov beat two defenders and set up Schipano who scored from close range.

St Albans battled hard in the second-half and a goaline clearance from Eric Vassiliadis from a distance managed to squeeze the greasy ball through the fingers of red-faced Albion keeper Robert Brian.

The victory maintains the Warriors impressive run of late and keeps them within realistic reach of the final five.

WARRIORS: Joey didulica, Skoko, Cosic, McAuliffe, Medved, Rajher (O'Sullivan), Deak John Didulica, Kules (Dimovski), Trupkovic (Bot), Fitzpatrick.

REDSOX: Brian, Osman Grimuad, Vesnaver, Lucchesi, Wilson, Donnelly, Geri, Patsaman (Retire), Sevin.

VOTES: 3-Medved (Warriors), 2-Joey Didulica (Warriors), 1-McAuliffe (Warriors).

REFEREE: Jim Markovski.

**PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 13**

Sunshine Georgies 1 (Nilo) — Green Gully Cavaliers 0

Box Hill Inter 1 (Guscic) — Buleen Lions 2 (Liparoti, White)

Thomastown Zebras 0 Altona Magic 1 (T. Constantinou)

St Albans Saints 0 — Fawkner Blues 1 (Schipano)

Bentleigh Greens 1 (Todorovski) — Heidelberg United 0

Port Melbourne Sharks 7 (Duric 2, Tsaltas 4, Argyriou) — Springvale City Vales 0

North Geelong Warriors 2 (Trupkovic, Dimovski) — Albion Redox 0

LEADING GOALSCORERS

14 — Despotovski (Heidelberg)

10 — Nilo (Sunshine)

ALBION 0**BY MARIO KORDIC**

Constant rain and a rejuvenated Albion Redsox failed to throw a spanner in the finals hopes of a disciplined North Geelong Warriors on Sunday.

The opening goal arrived for North Geelong when Mijo Trupkovic headed home from close range. Franc Bot nodded the ball into the path of Trupkovic who made no mistake.

The sealer came in the final 10 minutes courtesy of substitute George Dimovski. Dimovski's strike from a distance managed to squeeze the greasy ball through the fingers of red-faced Albion keeper Robert Brian.

The victory maintains the Warriors impressive run of late and keeps them within realistic reach of the final five.

SAINTS: Acevski, Rados, Gagula, Movric (Krajina), Magdic (Pelja), M. Colina, Jolic, Uslejbrka, Markovac, Babic (sent off), Razov, Mikulic.

BLUES: Beattie, Kuzman, Ferla, Schipano, Vassiliadis, Tramontana, Branov, Stergiopoulos, Michocic, Thodis, Psarros (Recchia).

REFEREE: Jurgen Annuss.

VOTES: 3-Branov (Blues), 2-Vassiliadis (Blues), 1-Gagula (Saints).

REFEREE: Jim Markovski.

**PONT MELB 7
SPRINGVALE 0****BY DWYGH TUFFNELL**

Frank Arok gained his first

win in charge of Port Melbourne Sharks with a 7-0 thumping of a dismal Springvale City Vales on Sunday.

Striking duo Nick Tsaltas and Alex Duric claimed six goals between them against an inexperienced and sometimes careless defending by the Vales.

Three goals in the first 20 minutes, two from Duric and one from Tsaltas, destroyed any chance the Vales had of beating the out of form Sharks.

The sharks then slammed in four goals in a 18th minute period at the end to complete the biggest win of the season so far.

Three goals from Tsaltas in that session left him with four for the afternoon whilst fullback Con Argyriou also got on the scoresheet.

Only casual finishing prevented the Sharks from racking up double figures.

SHARKS: Papas, Argyriou, Dimitrelos, Kyriakopoulos, Gotis, Palamaras, Sivigos (Karagiannis), Efstatiou (Komilios), Papadopoulos (Mitroulas), Duric, Tsaltas.

VALES: Dastey, Lettieri, Calominoi (Spina), De La Plaza (Dell'Aquila), Razzi, Impellizzeri, D. Grella, Lancaster, A. Vargas, P. Grella (Piemonte), R. Vargas.

VOTES: 3-Tsaltas (Sharks), 2-Dimitrelos (Sharks), 1-Duric (Sharks).

REFEREE: Vince Celestino.

RECORDED RESULTS SERVICE**0055 38887****SUNDAY MATCH RESULTS****SERVICE**

◆ Premier League
◆ State League Div. 1
◆ Provisional League Divisions 4&5

1 to 3
(Updated by 6.30pm each Sunday evening)

0055 38878**SATURDAY MATCH RESULTS****SERVICE**

◆ Premier League
◆ State League Divisions

1 to 3
(Updated by 6.30pm each Saturday evening)

0055 38898**SATURDAY MATCH RESULTS****SERVICE**

◆ State League Division 4
◆ Provisional League Divisions 1-3

1 to 3
(Updated by 6.30pm each Saturday evening)

(PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 0055 38878)

LIVING OUT A FOOTBALLER'S DREAM

Most footballers can only dream of living a life as a full-time professional player. But there are two Aussies who are doing just that — making a career of the sport they love.

Sunni Hughes and Cheryl Salisbury are spending their off-season back home after a successful first season in Japan's L-League, the highest paid women's National League in the world. Both originally from Newcastle in Northern NSW, Salisbury resides in Perth, with Hughes currently in Sydney.

The two have become integral members of the Matsushita Panasonic 'Bambina' club, both regular starting 11 material. Hughes plies her trade up front as a striker, Salisbury comfortably converted into the stopper position.

In its seventh year, the L-League now attracts some of the best players from around the globe. China was originally the major source of topline imports, but now there are also players from Norway, USA, Sweden, Canada and Brazil. Only three imports are allowed on the field at any one time, Matsushita also has a Chinese goalkeeper.

And the club is also keen to sign more Australians. Head coach Sadamu Komiyama and coach Hiroyasu Yamamoto made a special visit to Auckland in March to see the Australian team in action during the M-Wey Tri-Series against New Zealand and Korea.

"Beforehand, they had asked us a lot about the competition in Australia, and the standard of players," said Hughes. "They came to Auckland to look at younger players to sign in one or two years' time. Because of the Sydney Olympics, they feel we must be building up for that with good youngsters."

Both on 12-month contracts till the end of June, the two are due to return next month and sign another contract, and start pre-season training before competing in the top 6 Cup.

Matsushita finished the 10-team

competition in fourth spot last season a bit of a disappointment for the club after taking the championship the previous year. But the two are more than happy to have made the move to the professional ranks.

"The Asian style of soccer is a lot faster, with better close technical skills," said Hughes. "There is a lot of one-touch, short passing, and a lot of movement in midfield. It's been easy to adapt — I really like that style anyway."

At the start, it was hard with the language barrier and getting used to the new players, but it's better now getting used to each other's styles."

Salisbury found it less difficult slotting into the defence. "I've got another national team player alongside me. Almost straight away we clicked, we have the same way of thinking. I can see a lot more from the back, and I've now got a better understanding of the game. Working with and watching good players all the time, our level of knowledge has improved."

"The coaching has really helped me to focus on my timing," added Hughes. "It's done our football a lot of good. It would be hard not to — the amount of training we do. We've got a good coach and a good team."

"Initially we thought it would be very regimented. Everyone does the right thing and pitches in when necessary. The coach has total control and earns complete respect. But he is a good guy, and really quite laid back. Training is always varied and very imaginative. We are always learning."

Hughes, who has had a stint in Denmark's semi-professional league, is able to make comparisons. "This is more competitive, and a different style. Here, it's not like international matches, but it's not far off. Every game is like a final. There are no average players — everyone is good."

Language of course has become a new challenge for the pair, neither able to speak any Japanese before signing on. Initially aided by an interpreter, they also



Sunni Hughes: "Soccer in Japan, is a lucrative business."

attended classes for the first three months.

Since, then, they have continued on their own, now able to hold a conversation. "It's the perfect situation to learn — better than at a university," said Hughes, who would like to use her new skill in the future, possibly in the tourist industry.

The first English-speaking players at Matsushita, it was also a new experience for the Japanese players. "They were pretty excited as well. Most can speak a bit of English from school.

And they're all very friendly, and always willing to help — it's in their nature. It was just hard getting to know them at first."

As imports, the two Aussies in some ways are treated differently to their Japanese teammates. The local players, except for those in the National team, work for the company (Panasonic) in the factory.

Hughes describes the lifestyle as one long training camp. Rising at around 8-9am, Salisbury and Hughes do their own training either in the gym, Ballwork or

running. Lunch and dinner is on hand at the cafeteria or sometimes they cook for themselves.

Team training is scheduled for 2.30-5.30pm. After dinner, it's study time — Japanese language for the imports.

"It all sounds like a breeze, but it's fairly hard work," explained Hughes. "You get homesick. I love the soccer, but I can't wait to get home."

Based in Hirakata, a sprawling suburb of industrial centre Osaka, the social scene is far from that of a big city, something Hughes in particular misses.

"I'm a bit of a social butterfly — I like to have a chat and go out. It will be better when we return, we've now made some friends. But initially it was isolated, just the two of us."

The two have their own apartment, next door to each other. The whole place is just the size of a small hotel room but with everything including kitchen and bathroom. The team lives up the road in dormitory style accommodation with common facilities. Students are able to live

at home.

"It's good we're next door to each other, especially when there's earthquakes." Earthquakes are one more thing that has become part of the life of this Australian pair, but their introduction to the fact was one they'll long remember.

After just three days in their adopted country, at 4.45am, they suffered their first experience, the quake enough to sway the building. "I thought we were going to die, I've never been so scared," recalled Hughes.

"We huddled together in Cheryl's room. But when we got to training the next day, some had even slept through it."

In their first three months, they endured six earthquakes.

"These have been small, but since (the tragic earthquake in) Kobe, only one and a half hours away, people have been edgy — you never know when a big one will hit."

Soccer in Japan is a lucrative business. Neither is about to reveal any actual figures, but they are making more than they ever

would in a regular job, and in fact earn something more like that of a doctor or lawyer. "What we get, we put in our pockets after tax. We have no outlays."

They have had little opportunity for travel apart from that as a team. For every match, the side travels a day in advance and stays the night at a hotel. A six hour train ride has been the furthest journey.

The league is structured differently from the usual home and away matches. With a set number of matches venues, a 'home' game could be hours away. Grounds are a good standard, with crowds varying between 500-4000. Matsushita has a small group of travelling supporters who paint their faces, make banners and beat drums.

And of the future? "It depends of course on whether they want us," said Hughes. "We'd like to keep going back. It's a great stepping stone towards playing at the World Cup and Olympics. It would be ideal to stay until the Olympics, but I guess it depends on how we're feeling too."



Matsushita: Head coach watching young Australians.

SA WOMEN'S QUIT LEAGUE

Sturt Marion and Metro Knights both continued their unbeaten streak in the South Australian Women's Soccer Association Quit League competition. Sturt Marion had a battle on their hands in the first half of their game against Noarlunga United, who scored the first goal mid way through the half. This spurred last season's champions into action, with Australian representative Sharon Black scoring three goals for Sturt, while her defence repelled Noarlunga's

attacks. The 3-1 win kept Sturt at the top of the table, together with Metro Knights, who defeated newly promoted Adelaide CSC 6-1.

Elizabeth Vale was promoted to the QUIT League this week, while Adelaide Blue Eagles have taken their place in the second division. This should make for a more competitive First Division and give the blue eagles greater opportunities to develop their very young players.

SALISBURY RECOVERING



Cheryl Salisbury: Returns to Japan in August.

Cheryl Salisbury will not start pre-season training with the rest of her Matsushita teammates next month. Still lumbered with a cast from the horrific fracture/dislocation of her left ankle whilst playing for Australia in Auckland five weeks ago, Salisbury has informed the club she will not be ready to return until July.

Undergoing a three-hour operation in Sydney, Salisbury now has a plate and two screws where her leg was broken. The cast comes off on the May 13 and X-rays will reveal her true progress.

Then a fortnight later, another operation will

remove the diasis screw, holding together the dislocated ankle. She will be unable to walk on it until this stage.

After much rehabilitation, Salisbury is looking to return to football during August. "With the season starting in mid-August, I might only miss one or two games if it takes the maximum time to heal," said Salisbury.

The club has been in contact with her, and by all accounts is happy and have her back. This is certainly a load off Cheryl's mind, as with the seriousness of the injury, she had thoughts that the club might not want to risk taking her back.

ITALY's Serie A & B

TABLES

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	33	20	10	3	53	23	70
Juventus	33	19	7	7	56	33	64
Parma	33	16	10	7	44	29	58
Lazio	33	16	8	9	64	38	56
Fiorentina	33	16	8	9	52	41	56
Roma	33	15	10	8	50	34	55
Inter	33	15	9	9	51	29	54
Sampdoria	33	14	9	10	57	45	51
Vicenza	33	13	9	11	34	35	48
Udinese	33	11	8	14	40	47	41
Napoli	33	9	11	13	26	40	38
Cagliari	33	10	8	15	32	47	38
Piacenza	33	9	10	14	31	47	37
Atalanta	33	10	6	17	35	50	36
Bari	33	8	7	18	47	69	31
Torino	33	6	11	16	28	44	29
Cremonese	33	5	12	16	36	50	27
Padova	33	7	3	23	41	76	24

SERIE A

Cremonese	1	Vicenza	1
Fiorentina	1	Roma	4
Inter	3	Bari	0
Juventus	1	Atalanta	0
Lazio	1	Napoli	0
Padova	2	Cagliari	1
Parma	1	Torino	0
Sampdoria	3	Milan	0
Udinese	0	Piacenza	0

TABLES

SERIE B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Verona	33	16	10	7	44	28	58
Perugia	33	14	11	8	45	36	53
Reggiana	33	13	12	8	34	25	51
Bologna	33	11	17	5	31	20	50
Lucchese	33	12	13	8	39	36	49
Salernitana	33	12	12	9	37	25	48
Cesena	33	12	10	11	44	40	46
Palermo	33	10	15	8	31	31	45
Cosenza	33	10	14	9	40	39	44
Venezia	33	10	13	10	28	31	43
Pescara	33	11	10	12	39	43	43
Genoa	33	11	8	14	45	47	41
Avellino	33	11	8	14	34	43	41
F Andria	33	9	13	11	38	36	40
Chievo V	33	7	18	8	32	29	39
Brescia	33	10	9	14	39	41	39
Ancona	33	10	8	15	38	44	38
Foggia	33	10	8	15	24	42	38
Reggina	33	7	14	12	30	44	35
Pistoiese	33	7	11	15	30	42	32

SERIE B

Avellino	2	Lucchese	1
Bologna	2	Genoa	1
Brescia	1	Reggina	1
Chievo V	0	Reggiana	0
Cosenza	2	Cesena	2
F Andria	2	Pistoiese	1
Foggia	1	Palermo	0
Pescara	2	Perugia	2
Salernitana	1	Verona	2
Venezia	0	Ancona	0

JUVENTUS

ENSURE A UEFA SPOT

Sampdoria striker Enrico Chiesa single-handedly brought newly-crowned champion Milan to its knees on the penultimate Sunday of the Italian season with two goals in a shock 3-0 win.

The prolific Chiesa took less than 60 seconds to halt Milan's week-long celebrations of its 15th title, pouncing on Christian Karembeu's wayward shot to beat Sebastiano Rossi.

In the 35th minute the same player, linked with a move to Parma next season and expected to play a key role in Italy's European championship squad this summer, unleashed a tremendous shot from 20 metres that flew into Rossi's top corner for his 22nd goal of the season.

Veteran playmaker Roberto Mancini completed

Milan's third defeat of the season with a goal in the 39th minute.

At the San Siro, Paul Ince helped condemn Bari to serie B with the opening goal in Inter's 3-0 win, but his side's hopes of a UEFA Cup place suffered a blow as rivals Roma thrashed Fiorentina 4-1 in Florence.

European Cup finalists Juventus booked their place in Europe next season with a 1-0 home win over Atalanta, courtesy of a Didier Deschamps goal, while third-placed Parma look certain to join them after a 1-0 defeat of relegated Torino.

The battle between Lazio, Roma, Inter and Fiorentina for the remaining two places in Europe remains wide open with just two points separating the

four clubs and one match remaining.

Lazio lead the pack, moving into fourth place ahead of Fiorentina on goal difference after Roberto Di Matteo's first-half winner against Napoli at the Olympic Stadium.

But Roma are a point adrift in sixth place after coming from behind with two goals apiece from Argentina's Abel Balbo — both penalties — and Italy's under 21 striker Marco Delvecchio to defeat Fiorentina.

Inter lie another point back, after Ince's 34th minute shot and efforts from Marco Branca and Maurizio Ganz dispelled Bari's last remaining hopes of staying up.

Bari join Padova, Cremonese and Torino in next season's Serie B.



Marco Delvecchio: Scored a 'brace' for Roma.

CAPELLO TO JOIN REAL

AC Milan soccer coach Fabio Capello said last week he would leave the Italian champions at the end of the season and move to Real Madrid, although a top Milan official insisted he could still stay.

"I have decided to manage Real. I haven't yet signed a contract but I'm going to Madrid," Capello said.

"Real has got a great history and I'll work to bring it straight back to the top of European soccer."

He added that he had agreed in principle a three-year contract with Madrid, but rumours that he would be paid a net salary of \$A3.31 million a year were misleading. "It is much, much less than that," he said.

Milan's vice-chairman Adriano Galliani said nothing was final but if Capello did decide to leave then Uruguayan coach Oscar Tabarez could replace him.

"Tomorrow evening we will assess the best option

for everybody, whether Capello stays or goes. Should Capello decide to go the alternative could be Tabarez but let's wait until tomorrow evening."

"There is a possibility that Capello will stay," he added, although club sources said that is unlikely.

Capello took over as Milan coach in 1991 and has led the side to four league championships and one European Cup victory. Milan clinched this season's title on Sunday.

He said he was leaving Milan because the club had attached performance-related provisions to an offer of a new three-year contract.

"A company that imposes clauses means it doesn't have any faith in you," he said.

But he denied feeling bitter.

"You need a change of air, after so many years relationships become difficult," he said. "I'm leaving a great Milan but I will lead a prestigious and charismatic squad."



Fabio Capello: His reign at Milan is over.

ITALY CUP FINAL

— May 2 —

In Florence: Fiorentina 1 Atalanta 0 (halftime 0-0)

Scorer: Batistuta (51)

Attendance: 45,000

LEADING GOALSCORERS

23	Signori (Lazio)
22	Protti (Bari)
21	Chiesa (Samp)
19	Batistuta (Fiorentina)
18	Branca (Inter)
17	Bierhoff (Udinese)
14	Oliveira (Cagliari)
13	Casiraghi (Lazio)
13	Amoruso (Padova)
13	Caccia (Piacenza)
13	Ganz (Inter)
12	Vlaovic (Padova)
12	Balbo (Roma)
12	Ravanelli (Juventus)
12	Otero (Vicenza)
12	Andersson (Bari)

BORDEAUX STILL IN IT

Bayern Munich, inspired by stand-in coach Franz Beckenbauer, rode its luck to see off Bordeaux 2-0 in a thrilling UEFA Cup Final — first leg last Wednesday in Germany.

The German club, with Beckenbauer back at the helm after the sacking of coach Otto Rehhagel, scored once in each half but had to rely on goalkeeper Oliver Kahn to keep out the French side.

Kahn produced a series of top-class saves during a fine, open game that thrilled a vociferous 63,000 home crowd.

But his brilliance was matched at the end of the game by Bordeaux opposite number Gaetan Huard.

Club president Beckenbauer, who had promised his side would be up to the task after the shock of Rehhagel's departure, saw Bayern live dangerously during the first half.

Bordeaux, who went into the game without top striker Christophe Dugarry and midfielder Zinedine Zidane, defended solidly before looking certain to score after 33 minutes.

Didier Tholot, clean through following an interception, raced 40m but hesitated at the crucial moment to allow Kahn to close him down.

Crucially, Bordeaux's players let their guard down following that disappointment and Bayern raced back upfield, earned a corner on the right and took the lead when Thomas Helmer headed home Mehmet Scholl's cross on 35 minutes.

The next chance, just three minutes from the break, fell to the away side and again Khan saved the Germans. Dutch midfielder Richard Witschge floated a chip to the left, Tholot volleyed back into the centre and Anthony Bancarel lashed in a shot that the goalkeeper somehow flapped one-handed over the bar.

The French, however, refused to fold despite being a goal down at the interval.

It took the unlikely figure of Jean-Pierre Papin, Bayern's French striker who will miss the return after being booked in the first half, to save the home side early in the second half by clearing off the line from a header.

Beckenbauer withdrew sweeper Lothar Matthaus immediately afterwards as Bayern continued to push forward and Scholl soon repaid his coach, cutting in brilliantly from the right

and drilling a savage shot across Huard and into the bottom left corner on the hour.

Bordeaux, however, continued to exploit the growing spaces in Bayern's defence, Khan again foiling them with a diving interception when Tholot looked poised to tap in and then beating away a Bancarel shot from the right.

With ten minutes to go, Huard matched him with a smart save to his left and Jürgen Klinsmann went close with a header that shaved Bordeaux's left post.

With two minutes to go, Huard produced his best, palming a Marcel Witeczek shot onto the bar and Klinsmann volleying over the open goal.

The return match is on

May 15. "It's a pity that we didn't win 3-0, but I think the score would have been too high anyway," Beckenbauer said.

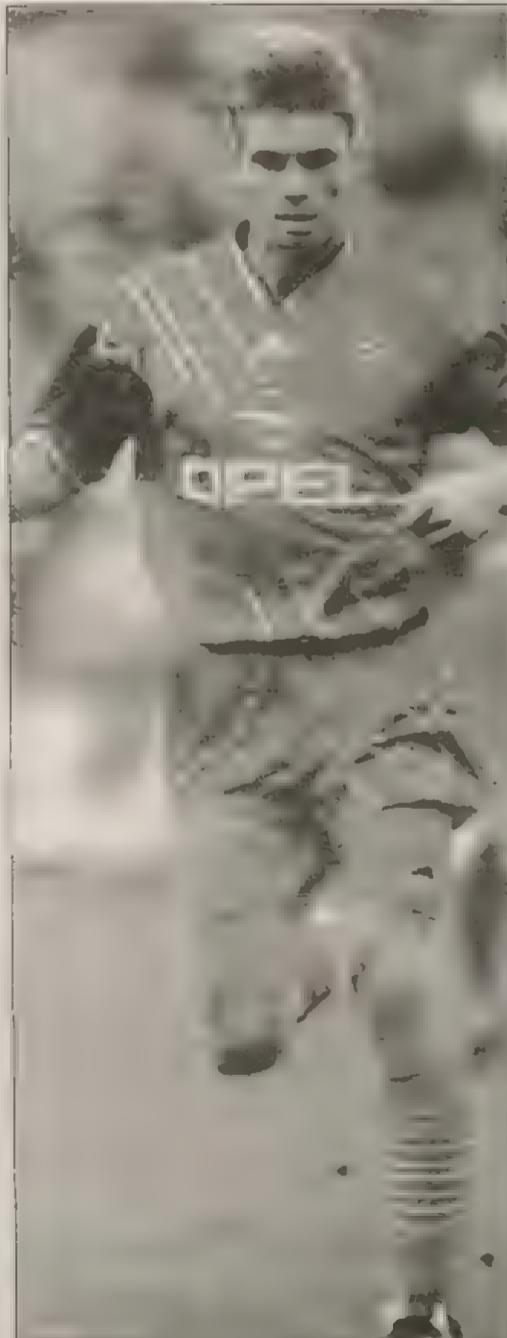
"We controlled the game most of the time but Bordeaux had some very good chances in their counter-attacks".

Bordeaux coach Gernot Rohr, a German who once played with Beckenbauer in Bayern, said, "If we could do it against Milan, why can't we do it against Bayern?"

We had some really good chances tonight, but unfortunately we didn't get the all in, Kahn was outstanding.

"We managed to retain some suspense for the second leg. We'll have our biggest stars back in the team and I am sure that we can score two goals," Rohr said.

In Munich: Bayern Munich (Germany) 2
Bordeaux (France) 0
(half-time 1-0)
Scorers: Thomas Helmer (35), Mehmet Scholl (60).
Attendance: 62,000.
Second Leg in Bordeaux May 15.



Thomas Helmer: His brilliant header opened the scoring for Bayern.

UEFA Cup fans raise their standards

BY BOB BROOKS

The 60,000 plus crowd at the Olympic Stadium in Munich on Wednesday night were in fine voice, they also know classical music.

The Grand March from *Aida* by Verdi was "laud" to on a number of occasions.

It was a surprise to hear Edward Elgar's *Pop and Circumstance* piece which is used for one of England's favourite songs *Land of Hope and Glory* — has anyone got a translation of the words used in Germany?

From the Bordeaux fans a piper played the music for *Amazing Grace* and the fans sang words to accompany the tune.

A really uplifting visit to the UEFA Cup final first leg — an education of sorts.

The atmosphere was electric and certainly appeared to inspire top class football on the field.

Bordeaux is a sea port in northern France on the Channel coast.

They are far from being a giant of Europe.

They can however their their beginnings to 1881.

They play in the Municipal Stadium and strangely their address is on Wilson Boulevard, hardly a French-sounding name.

They have enjoyed modest success with their first league win in 1950.

Their initial Cup success came in 1941.

The club has never before reached even a European competition semi-final.

On the other hand

Bayern Munich are 19 years younger as a club, having been founded in 1900.

Their Olympic Stadium was built for the 1972 games. It can comfortably hold a 65,000 crowd. The only disadvantage is the eight lane running track around the pitch.

Before the advent of the Bundesliga in 1963 the team had achieved little from their Bavarian headquarters. The club championship of 1932 and a 1957 Cup win was all they had to show for the first 60-odd years.

They took the German Cup in 1966 and then landed the Cup Winners Cup the following season with 1-0 victory over Scotland's Rangers.

This Bayern team contained Sepp Maier in goal, the impeccable Franz "Der Kaiser" Beckenbauer as the master tactician and Gerd Müller to breach opposition defences.

The European Cup went to Bavaria for the first time in 1974 thanks to a 4-0 final replay over Atlético Madrid. They retained the trophy in '75 and '76 for a remarkable hat-trick.

They added the World Club Cup in 1976 with a 2-0 aggregate win over Cruzeiro of Brazil.

If the standard of play in France is equal to that in Munich then it would be a shame for any fan of the World Game to miss the second leg.

You can see highlights on SBS TV on Thursday, May 16 at 8.30pm Sydney time.

A first-ever Euro trophy for the winner

European Cup Winners Cup final
Paris St Germain (France) v
Rapid Vienna (Austria)
Venue: Brussels

PREVIEW BY HENRY WIZGIER

The second of Europe's three major club competitions comes to a head, on Thursday morning our time.

Generally regarded by aficionados as the least important, because it is only played for by the domestic cup winners — it is still nevertheless a very lucrative competition and therefore a very desirable "tin-pot" to win.

Neither club has previously won this or indeed, any other European trophy.

There is an amazing irony in football where clubs often reach their greatest glories after losing their best individuals.

This happened to previous French champions Marseilles soon after Jan Pierre Papin left team for AC Milan.

Their immediate response was to go and win the Big One — the European Champions Cup itself, in 1993.

When no less a player than George Weah left PSG for the same club last year, followed soon after by David Ginola for Newcastle, you wouldn't have bet a bent "sous" on the Parisians scaling their greatest peak immediately afterwards.

Yet here they are, on the verge of taking their first Euro-title.

Their coach Luis Fernandez has quickly re-built his new team around French international midfielders Youri Djorkaeff and Vincent Guerin, France's current footballer of the year.

When they brought Patrice Loko from Nantes to replace Weah — it seemed like a pretty poor substitution, yet his partnership with Brazilian Rai up front has more than made up for the loss of the Liberian.

If PSG have no really recognised international stars, Rapid Vienna are even more poverty-stricken in this department.

Apart from several Austrian internationals, you may see Bulgarian defender Ivanov and Czech stopper Pivarnik in Euro 96, come June.

A very confident prediction for Paris St Germain to win their first European trophy — and only the second one ever for France.

ROAD TO BRUSSELS

PARIS ST GERMAIN

First Round: v Molde FK (Norway) 3-2, 3-0
Second Round: v Glasgow Rangers (Scotland) 1-0, 3-0
Quarter final: v Parma (Italy) 0-1, 3-1
Semi-final: v Deportivo La Coruna (Spain) 1-0, 1-0

First Round: v Petrolul Ploieşti (Romania) 3-1, 1-0
Second Round: v Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) 0-2, 4-0
Quarter final: v Dynamo Moscow (Russia) 1-0, 3-0
Semi-final: v Feyenoord (Holland) 1-1, 3-0
SBS TV will cover the whole match with a delayed telecast starting at 5am Thursday (Sydney time).

Croatian Corner

BY JOHN VISKOVICH



(above) and Pedrag Mipatovic but will also hope to take AC Milan's Zvonimir Boban to Spain.

The master coach said to "Super Sport" that he is happy with Real's new signings Davor Suker

and (below) and Pedrag Mipatovic but will also hope to take AC Milan's Zvonimir Boban to Spain.

The three players played together as Juniors and won the World Youth Championship in 1987.

Playing for the former Yugoslavia, Suker and Mipatovic are already proven strikers in Spain and finished in the top five goalscorers each year and with Boban's Italian experience the star trio should prove a big hit at Real.

Coran Vučević who is owned by Barcelona is now playing for lowly Merida in Spain on loan.

Johan Cruyff and Vučević have not seen eye to eye lately. It is the foreign rule which is keeping Vučević out at Barca.

Croatia played Hungary and won 4-1 recently. The line-up was 1. Mrčić, 2. Brajković, 3. Balajić, 4. Pavličić, 5. Jerkić, 6. Bilic, 7. Mornar, 8. Pamić, 9. Suker (capt), 10. Stanić, 11. Cvitanović.

In the crowd was Hungary

and World Super Soccer legend Ferenc Puskás who said Croatia have a really good team considering it was only the 'B' team which played.

Coach for Croatia was not Ciro Blažević but Otto Barćic who masterminded a fine win at such short notice.

Robert Prosinečki is match fit at Barcelona, he and his former Real Madrid teammate Romanian, Hagi are in hot form.

Bosnian Mehdi Kodro is the third foreigner and he too is shining and looks to have finally broken his goal drought.

For more Croatian Sports news and a good laugh tune into CRO 2000 on Sydney Radio 98.5FM on Wednesday at 8.50pm with Ante Grabovac "The Crow".

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

BROLIN SURGERY

Swedish international striker Tomas Brolin will undergo surgery on the foot he broke in 1994, probably putting him out of action for two months.

Swedish television said Brolin, with Leeds in the English Premiership, would have cartilage build-up removed from his left foot.

Brolin broke the foot in a European championship qualifying match against Hungary.

KLUIVERT IN COURT

Dutch star Patrick Kluivert told a packed Amsterdam court last week he was not driving as fast as witnesses claim when last September his borrowed BMW ploughed into another car, killing the driver.

Kluivert, 19, the Ajax Amsterdam striker valued at close to \$A14.66 million, is charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Legal experts, however, reckon a jail sentence is unlikely and they expect Kluivert, whose family has received racist abuse since the incident, to offer to serve a community service order.

Kluivert, dressed in a dark blue jacket, and accompanied by Ajax club officials and members of his

family, admitted breaking the inner-city speed limit of 50km per hour, but told Judge Rob Blekxtoon he had been driving at no more than 75 kph at the time of the accident.

Eyewitness and police reports read out in court testified to him driving at over 100kph. Asked by Judge Blekxtoon how he could be sure of his speed, Kluivert said, "I sensed it. It couldn't have been any faster. I know the road and I know how dangerous it is."

The father-in-law of the dead man, Marten Putman, who saw the collision from his bedroom window, told the three-judge panel that Kluivert was driving at at least 100kph.

"It (the car) looked like a rocket," Putman said.

Another witness, a woman who was cycling on the same road at the time, said: "The car was driving at enormous speed. It passed me in a flash and when it crossed a bridge all four wheels were off the road."

Kluivert, who grew up in north Amsterdam and joined Ajax's celebrated youth program as a seven-year-old, is a prodigious talent who has won the hearts of the Dutch nation and attracted scouts from many top European clubs.

PSV IN CUP FINAL

PSV Eindhoven clinched a place in the Dutch Cup final last week staging a late semi-final

comeback to beat Roda JC Kerkrade 3-1.

It scored all three goals in the last 25 minutes after Roda had gone ahead mid-way through the first half.

Roda dominated for the first hour of the match against a PSV side suffering from end-of-season fatigue.

The away side took the lead on 26 minutes when defender Andre Ooijer headed home a corner.

But shortly after the break former Dutch national coach Dick Advocaat bolstered PSV's attack, bringing on two strikers for midfielders.

The tactic worked and on 65 minutes, after a partial failure of the floodlights at the Philips stadium, Philip Cocu equalised when he fired a cross past goalkeeper Ruud Hesp.

Nine minutes from time Luc Nilis gave PSV the lead, curling a brilliant free-kick round the wall from 20 metres.

Rene Eykelkamp made the game safe on 87 minutes, skipping through the Roda defence to score. The only sour note for PSV was another injury for Brazilian youngster Ronaldo. He came on as substitute after a long lay-off but had to leave the field after 25 minutes with an injured shoulder after a bad fall.

PSV meet Sparta Rotterdam in the final on May 16.

KUNG FU

AFTERMATH

An English fan who was the victim of a kung-fu kick attack by Manchester United star Eric Cantona was jailed for seven days for jumping out of the dock and attacking a prosecutor at his own trial.

Matthew Simmons staged his attack after he was found guilty of provoking the French footballer at a premier league match between United and Crystal Palace in January 1995.

He was fined \$A949 and ordered to pay costs of \$A380 for using threatening words and behaviour.

He was also banned from English grounds for a year.

Magistrates then sentenced Simmons to seven days in jail for contempt of court after the attack in which he leaped at prosecution lawyer Jeffery McCann, kicking him in the head and trying to throttle him.

The attack caused uproar in the south London court.

A police officer shouted "get the cuffs on him" as court officials scuffled with Simmons, 21, a glazier from London with a criminal record of attempted robbery with violence.

Magistrates hurriedly left the court while a furious Simmons shouted,

"I'm innocent, I promise, I swear on the Bible."

The crop-haired fan was led away to the cells shouting at reporters, "You press, you are scum."

The court later resumed sitting and a contrite Simmons offered an apology through his lawyer, which McCann accepted.

But the magistrates withdrew to consider his attack and imposed a seven-day jail sentence.

Simmons' conviction will draw a line under an incident that blighted the career of the volatile Cantona, former captain of the French national team, and further tarnished the poor reputation of English soccer fans.

Cantona was initially jailed for assault for his attack on Simmons but this was diluted to 120 hours community service. He was also banned for seven months.

Simmons had denied provoking Cantona at the match in January 1995. After being sent off, Cantona was walking to the dressing rooms when he was taunted by Palace fans.

Millions of television viewers then saw Cantona jump feet first into the crowd and kick and punch Simmons.

Cantona, who did not appear in court during Simmons' trial, has scored 17 goals since returning to soccer last October and was recently voted England's Footballer of the Year.



MINNOW SHAKES AUXERRE

France League leader Auxerre was given a fright

by third division Nimes in the Cup final last weekend, being forced to come from a goal down at half-time to triumph 2-1 with a winner two minutes from the end.

Auxerre was stunned by a determined, battling Nimes side which matched it in every department in the first period and which had the audacity to take the lead in the 26th minute with a superb goal from Omar Belbey.

But the leaders, expecting an easier ride in what they hope will be the first stage of a League and Cup double, got back into the game when Laurent Blanc equalised six minutes after the interval.

Magnificent goalkeeping by Nimes's Philippe Sence kept Auxerre at bay until two minutes from the end when Lilian Laslandes snatched the winner with a diving header.

But Sence was not ready to surrender and he guaranteed his status as man of the match when he saved a Blanc penalty in injury time.

Nimes, struggling to

avoid relegation to the fourth division, beat three first division teams on their way to the final, becoming the first third division side to get to the annual showpiece at the Parc des Princes, Paris.

In any case, Nimes will be France's representatives in next season's Cup Winners' Cup should Auxerre capture the championship.



Laurent Blanc: Scored Auxerre's equaliser.

Youngest ever England boss

Glenn Hoddle pledged to develop the England squad along the same lines as current manager Terry Venables when he takes over the job after June's Euro 96.

"I think Terry and I are very close. The principles of the way the game should be played and the type of players we like to bring in at club and international level do parallel, without any shadow of a doubt," he told a news conference.

"I've always said that if Terry had been manager when I was playing, I'd have possibly played for England more often than I did," he added.

Hoddle, who at 38 will be the youngest ever manager of the national team, has signed a four-year contract worth around \$A1.90 million.

Hoddle said he was sorry to leave Chelsea, where he has been manager for the last three years while producing a creative team based around Dutch master Ruud Gullit.

"I felt the only job I would leave Chelsea for was the national job. And that goes for any club either in Britain or in Europe," he said.

"Chelsea have done everything right. It was a heart-rending time for me these last few days ... I thank the Chelsea fans for the

support they have given me and hopefully I've given them something back in return."

Hoddle, who played 53 times for England between 1979 and 1988 despite often being neglected by managers despite his unquestionable talent, said England had a bright future.

"I do believe the talent is here and I'm sure that will be proved in the (Northern) summer." "There is a crop of youngsters coming through who are very exciting."

Although he won praise at Chelsea and his previous club Swindon, Hoddle has yet to win trophies. But he shrugged off suggestions he lacked the experience to take on the biggest job in British soccer.

"Sometimes experience is judged by grey hairs, and that's not necessarily true. I believe in playing in a manner that is close to my heart and close to the public's heart as well."

Venables welcomed Hoddle's appointment as his successor, and said his experience on the Continent at French club Monaco would be a great help.

"Glen was one of the best players we've ever had in this country. Now he's taken that a stage further and implemented his talent at Chelsea and Swindon and has done very well," Venables said.



Glenn Hoddle: "I do believe the talent is here."

Pen picture of Hoddle

Biographical fact file of Glenn Hoddle.

1957: Born October 27, Hayes, Middlesex.

1974: Signed as apprentice by Tottenham.

1975: Turned professional, making debut at age 18 as a substitute.

1976: Scores on full debut against Stoke.

1979: Scores on England senior debut against Bulgaria in European Championship qualifier at Wembley, the first of eight England goals.

1981: Wins FA Cup with Spurs, who beat Manchester City.

1982: League Cup runners-up to Liverpool; Scores in both FA Cup final games against QPR to collect his second winners' medal.

1987: FA Cup final defeat by Coventry followed by move to Monaco. Playing alongside Mark Hateley, he inspires them to the French league title within 12 months.

1988: Last of 53 England caps in 3-1 defeat by the USSR in the European Championship finals.

1990: Retires through injury.

1991: Comeback as non-contract player in Chelsea reserves, followed by appointment as Swindon player-manager in April.

1993: Scores first goal in 4-3 play-off final win against Leicester that takes Wiltshire club into Premiership. One month later quits Swindon to take over as Chelsea player-manager.

1994: Takes Chelsea to FA Cup final but they crash 4-0 to Manchester United.

1995: Makes final appearance in 2-1 home win against Arsenal. Signs Ruud Gullit from Sampdoria.

1996: Leads Chelsea to the FA Cup semi-finals, where they lose 2-1 to Manchester United. Accepts Football Association offer of four-year contract to be England coach.

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

— Midweek —

Leeds 1 (Wetherall 13th minute) Tottenham 3 (Armstrong 18, Anderton 24, 66). Halftime 1-2. Attendance: 30,060.

Nottingham Forest 1 (Woan 75) Newcastle 1 (Beardsley 32). 28,280.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

— May 5 —

Arsenal 2 (Platt 82nd, Bergkamp 84th). Bolton 1 (Todd 76th). Halftime 0-0. Attendance: 38,104.

Chelsea 2 (Wise 34th, Spencer 88th) Blackburn 3 (Sherwood 36th, McKinlay 47th, Fenton 59th). 1-1. 28,436.

Coventry 0 Leeds 0. 22,769.

Everton 1 (Parkinson 78th) Aston Villa 0. 40,127.

Manchester City 2 (Rosler penalty 71st, Symons 78) Liverpool 2 (Lomas own goal 6th, Rush 41st). 0-2. 31,436.

Middlesbrough 0 Manchester United 3 (May 15th, Cole 54th, Giggs 80th). 0-1. 29,921.

Newcastle 1 (Ferdinand 71st) Tottenham 1 (Dozzell 57th). 0-0.

36,589

Nottingham Forest 3 (Stone 44th, Roy 63rd, Howe 77th) Queens Park Rangers 0. 1-0. 22,910.

Southampton 0 Wimbledon 0. 15,172.

West Ham 1 (Dicks 73rd) Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Newsome 89th). 0-0. 23,790.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 2 Bolton 1.

Chelsea 2 Blackburn 3.

Coventry 0 Leeds 0.

Everton 1 Aston Villa 0.

Manchester City 2 Liverpool 2.

Middlesbrough 0 Manchester Utd 3.

Newcastle 1 Tottenham 1.

Nottingham Forest 3 QPR 0.

Southampton 0 Wimbledon 0.

West Ham 1 Sheffield Wed 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Barnsley 1 Grimsby 1.

Sheffield United 1 Port Vale 1.

Birmingham 1 Reading 2.

Charlton 1 Wolverhampton 1.

Crystal Palace 0 Norwich 1.

Huddersfield 0 Portsmouth 1.

Ipswich 0 Millwall 0.

Oldham 1 Luton 0.

Stoke 1 Southend 0.

Tranmere 2 Sunderland 0.

Watford 0 Leicester 1.

West Bromwich 3 Derby 2.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Brentford 2 Bournemouth 0.

Bristol Rovers 2 Wycombe 1.

Burnley 2 Shrewsbury 1.

Carlisle 2 Bristol City 1.

Chesterfield 1 Notts County 0.

Hull 2 Bradford 3.

Oxford 4 Peterborough 0.

Rotherham 0 Wrexham 1.

Swansea 2 Crewe 1.

Swindon 0 Stockport 0.

Walsall 2 Brighton 1.

York 0 Blackpool 2.

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Barnet 3 Fulham 0.

Bury 3 Cardiff 0.

Cambridge 2 Leyton Orient 0.

Chester 2 Mansfield 1.

Colchester 1 Doncaster 0.

Gillingham 1 Scarborough 0.

Hereford 2 Rochdale 0.

Lincoln 5 Torquay 0.

Plymouth 3 Hartlepool 0.

Preston 2 Exeter 0.

Scunthorpe 3 Darlington 3.

Wigan 1 Northampton 2.

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Dundee 0 St Johnstone 0.

Dunfermline 2 Airdreanians 1.

Greenock Morton 2 Dundee United 2.

Hamilton 2 Dumbarton 1.

St Mirren 1 Clydebank 2.

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Berwick 2 Ayr 1.

Clyde 0 Queen of the South 0.

East Fife 0 Stirling 1.

Montrose 0 Stranraer 1.

Stenhousemuir 0 Forfar 2.

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Alloa 2 Cowdenbeath 1.

Arbroath 2 Albion 1.

Caledonian Thistle 1 Livingston 2.

East Stirling 3 Brechin 0.

Ross County 0 Queen's Park 1.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester United 38 25 7 6 73 35 82.

Newcastle 38 24 6 8 66 37 78.

Liverpool 38 20 11 7 70 54 71.

Aston Villa 38 18 9 11 52 35 63.

Arsenal 38 17 12 9 49 32 63.

Everton 38 17 10 11 64 44 61.

Blackburn 38 18 7 13 61 47 61.

Tottenham 38 16 13 9 50 38 61.

Nottingham Forest 38 15 13 10 50 54 58.

West Ham 38 14 9 15 43 52 51.

Chelsea 38 12 14 12 46 44 50.

Middlesbrough 38 11 10 17 35 50 43.

Leeds 38 12 7 19 40 57 43.

Wimbledon 38 10 11 17 55 70 41.

Sheffield Wed 38 10 10 18 48 61 40.

Coventry 38 8 14 16 42 60 38.

Southampton 38 9 11 18 34 52 38.

Manchester City 38 9 11 18 33 58 38.

QPR 38 9 6 23 38 57 33.

Bolton 38 8 5 25 39 71 29.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Sunderland 46 22 17 7 59 33 83.

Derby 46 21 16 9 71 51 79.

Crystal Palace 46 20 15 11 67 48 75.

Stoke 46 20 13 13 60 49 73.

Leicester 46 19 14 13 66 60 71.

Charlton 46 17 20 9 57 45 71.

Ipswich 46 19 12 15 79 69 69.

Huddersfield 46 17 12 17 61 58 63.

Sheffield United 46 16 14 16 57 54 62.

Barnsley 46 14 18 14 60 66 60.

West Brom 46 16 12 18 60 68 60.

Port Vale 46 15 15 16 59 66 60.

Tranmere 46 14 17 15 64 60 59.

Southend 46 15 14 17 52 61 59.

Birmingham 46 15 13 18 61 64 58.

Norwich 46 14 15 17 59 55 57.

Grimsby 46 14 14 18 55 69 56.

Oldham 46 14 14 18 54 50 56.

Reading 46 13 17 16 54 63 56.

Wolverhampton 46 13 16 17 56 62 55.

Portsmouth 46 13 13 20 61 69 52.

Millwall 46 13 13 20 43 63 52.

Watford 46 10 18 18 62 70 48.

Luton 46 11 12 23 40 64 45.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Swindon 46 25 17 4 71 34 92.

Oxford 46 24 11 11 76 39 83.

Blackpool 46 23 13 10 67 40 82.

Notts County 46 21 15 10 63 39 78.

Crewe 46 22 7 17 77 60 73.

Bradford 46 22 7 17 71 69 73.

Chesterfield 46 20 12 14 56 51 72.

Wrexham 46 18 16 12 76 55 70.

Stockport 46 19 13 14 61 47 70.

Bristol Rovers 46 20 10 16 57 60 70.

Walsall 46 19 12 15 60 45 69.

Wycombe 46 15 15 16 63 59 60.

Bristol City 46 15 15 16 55 60 60.

Bournemouth 46 16 10 20 51 70 58.

Brentford 46 15 13 18 43 49 58.

Rotherham 46 14 14 18 54 62 56.

Burnley 46 14 13 19 56 68 55.

Shrewsbury 46 15 14 19 58 70 53.

Peterborough 46 13 13 20 59 66 52.

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Carlisle 46 12 13 21 57 72 49.

York 45 12 13 20 55 72 49.

Swansea 46 11 14 21 43 79 47.

Brighton 45 10 10 25 45 66 40.

Hull

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Preston 46 23 17 6 78 38 86.

Gillingham 46 22 17 7 49 20 83.

Bury 46 22 13 11 66 48 79.

Plymouth 46 22 12 12 68 49 78.

Darlington 46 20 18 8 60 42 78.

Hereford 46 20 14 12 65 47 74.

Colchester 46 18 18 10 61 51 72.

Chester 46 18 16 12 72 53 70.

Barnet 46 18 16 12 65 45 70.

Wigan 46 20 10 16 62 56 70.

Northampton 46 18 13 15 51 44 67.

Scunthorpe 46 15 15 16 67 61 60.

Doncaster 46 16 11 19 49 60 59.

Exeter 46 13 18 15 46 53 57.

Rochdale 46 14 13 19 57 61 55.

Cambridge 46 14 12 20 61 71 54.

Fulham 46 12 17 17 57 63 53.

Lincoln 46 13 14 19 57 73 53.

Mansfield 46 11 20 15 54 64 53.

Hartlepool 46 12 13 21 47 67 49.

Leyton Orient 46 12 11 23 44 63 47.

Cardiff 46 11 12 23 41 64 45.

Scarborough 46 8 16 22 39 69 40.

Torquay 46 5 14 27 30 84 29.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Rangers 36 27 6 3 85 25 87.

Celtic 36 24 11 1 74 25 83.

Aberdeen 36 16 7 13 52 45 55.

Hearts 36 16 7 13 55 53 55.

Hibernian 36 11 10 15 45 57 43.

Rath 36 12 7 17 41 57 43.

Kilmarnock 36 11 8 17 39 54 41.

Motherwell 36 9 12 15 28 39 39.

Partick 36 8 6 22 29 62 30.

Falkirk 36 6 6 24 31 60 24.

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Dunfermline 36 21 8 7 73 41 71.

Dundee United 36 19 10 7 73 37 67.

Greenock Morton 36 20 7 9 57 39 67.

St Johnstone 36 19 8 9 60 36 65.

Dundee 36 15 12 9 53 40 57.

St Mirren 36 13 8 15 46 51 47.

Clydebank 36 10 10 16 39 58 40.

Airdreanians 36 9 11 16 43 54 38.

Hamilton 36 10 6 20 40 57 36.

Dumbarton 36 3 2 31 23 94 11.

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Stirling 36 24 9 3 83 30 81.

East Fife 36 19 10 7 50 29 67.

Berwick 36 18 6 12 64 47 60.

Stenhousemuir 36 14 7 15 51 49 49.

Clyde 36 11 12 13 47 45 45.

Ayr 36 11 12 13 40 40 45.

Queen of South 36 11 10 15 54 67 43.

Stranraer 36 8 18 10 38 43 42.

Forfar 36 11 7 18 37 61 40.

Montrose 36 5 5 26 33 86 20.

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Livingston 36 21 9 6 51 24 72.

Brechin 36 18 9 9 41 21 63.

Caledonian Thistle 36 15 12 9 64 38 57.

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

Norrkoping	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Degerfors	2	0	1	1	3	8	1
Orebro	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Oster	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Trelleborg	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY

— April 30 —

Tel Aviv: Israel	5	South Korea	4
Scorers: Israel: Haim Revivo (79, 87), Tal			
Banin (81pen), Itzik Zohar (90)			
South Korea: Hong Kim (50), Song Chou (37),			
Yong Sin (40), Sun Hwang (55, 56 pen)			
Attendance: 2,500			
Mielec Poland: Poland 1 Bebrus 1			
(halftime 1-0)			
Scorers: Poland, Wojciech Kowalczyk (8)			
Belarus, Pyotr Kachuro (63)			
Attendance: 4,000			
In Ankara: Turkey 3 Ukraine 2			
(halftime 3-2)			
Scorers: Turkey, Hakan (3) Farak (13) Tugay			
(32) Ukraine, Shevchenko (10) Guseinov (34).			
Attendance: 10,000			

PORTUGAL SUPER CUP

— May 1 —

Sporting Lisbon	3	Porto	0

GERMANY MID-WEEK

— May 1 —

Fortuna Duesseldorf	2	St Pauli	0
Hamburg	2	Borussia M'gladbach	1
Cologne	3	Eintracht Frankfurt	0

USA MLS MID-WEEK

— May 1 —

Washington DC	3	Dallas	1

CZECH REPUBLIC

— May 1 —

Petra Dmocice	3	Slavia Praha	0
SK Hradec Kralove	1	Boby Brno	0
Sparta Praha	3	Union Cheb	0
J Uheriske Hradiste	2	Sigma Olomouc	1
Banik Ostrava	1	Slovan Liberec	0
Viktoria Plzen	2	Kaucuk Opava	1
FK Jablonec	5	Viktoria Zizkov	0
SK CBudejovice	2	Svit Zlin	0

TABLE

Slavia Praha	27	20	1	6	61	24	61
Sigma Olomouc	27	16	4	7	50	32	52
FK Jablonec	27	15	5	7	44	23	50
Petra Dmocice	27	14	6	7	52	33	48
Sparta Praha	27	13	7	7	55	33	46
Kaucuk Opava	27	10	7	10	33	33	37
Slovan Liberec	26	10	7	9	27	27	37
Viktoria Plzen	26	10	6	10	32	30	36
SK C.Budejovice	27	10	5	12	33	43	35
Boby Brno	26	9	7	10	34	40	34
Banik Ostrava	26	9	5	12	37	39	32
Viktoria Zizkov	27	8	8	11	33	40	32
Union Cheb	27	7	8	12	33	46	29
SK Hradec Kralove	27	8	4	15	27	43	28
Svit Zlin	27	4	9	14	13	35	21
J Uheriske Hradiste	27	3	7	17	17	60	16

NORWAY FIRST DIVISION

— May 2 —

Bodoe/Glimt	1	Stroemsgodset	1
Brann	1	Viking	1
Kongsvinger	1	Lillestrom	5
Molde	0	Skeid	1
Stabaek	2	Moss	2
Tromsøe	3	Start	0
Viking	4	1	3
Skeid	4	2	0
Brann	3	1	2
Stroemsgodset	4	1	2
Start	3	1	1
Molde	4	1	0
Stabaek	3	0	2
Kongsvinger	3	0	1
Moss	4	0	1
Vaalerenga	4	0	0

TABLE

Lillestrom	4	3	1	0	13	5	10
Rosenborg	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
Bodoe/Glimt	4	2	2	0	8	5	8
Tromsøe	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Viking	4	1	3	0	6	5	6
Skeid	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
Brann	3	1	2	0	6	4	5
Stroemsgodset	4	1	2	1	6	7	5
Start	3	1	1	1	7	8	4
Molde	4	1	0	3	10	7	3
Stabaek	3	0	2	1	5	7	2
Kongsvinger	3	0	1	2	3	8	1
Moss	4	0	1	3	2	12	1
Vaalerenga	4	0	0	4	1	10	0

JAPAN J-LEAGUE

— May 2 —

Kashiwa	2	Kyoto	0
Osaka C	0	Urawa	0
(Osaka C wins 5-4 on penalties)			
Shimizu	2	Yokohama M	1
Yokohama F	3	Iwata	2
Nagoya	3	Kashima	1
Osaka G	2	Hiratsuka	1
Hiroshima	2	Fukuoka	0
Kawasaki	2	Ichihara	1

— May 5 —

Jubilo Iwata	1	(Vanenburg 24-pen) Sanfrecce	
Hiroshima	0		
Yokohama Flugels	3	(Maezono 37, 55, Zinho 80-pen) Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 (Moriyama 77, Iijima 89)	
JEF United Ichihara	3	(Hasek 1, 27, Hiroyama 14) Kashima Antlers 2 (Kurosaki 2, Leonardo 5-pen)	
Kashiwa Reysol	7	(Edilson 48, 63, 77, 87, 88, Kato 55, Arima 89) Gamba Osaka 1 (Miadonovic 70-pen)	
Cerezo Osaka	2	(Marquinhos 82, 109) Verdy Kawasaki	
Kawasaki 1	0	(Kurihara 89) Yokohama Marinos 1 (Noda 69) Kyoto Purple Sanga 0	
Bellmare Hiratsuka	4	(Harasaki 2, 19, Noguchi 12, Simao 86) Avispa Fukuoka 0	
Urawa Red Diamonds	2	(Iwase 44, Fukuda 98) Shimizu S-Pulse 1 (Massaro 79)	

TABLE

Yokohama Flugels	12	10	2	26	14	30

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SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHEART —

“Role model” sent off for violence

Brazil's former World Cup goalkeeper Taffarel, a committed Christian who is usually considered a model professional, was sent off for upending an opponent and then kicking him as he lay on the ground.

Taffarel, who plays for Atletico Mineiro, came rushing out of his area when rival forward Jamerson of Caldense was given a clean run at goal during last week's match in the Minas Gerais regional championship in Belo Horizonte.

Jamerson rounded the normally placid Taffarel, who brought him crashing to the ground with a crunching late tackle and then kicked him as Jamerson lay on the pitch. Taffarel later apologised for his behaviour.

The match ended 1-1.

Taffarel played in every game as Brazil won the 1994 World Cup in the United States and was the hero as they beat Italy on penalties in the final, saving two Italian efforts.

After the World Cup Final he spent six months unemployed, when the only football he played was as a centre-forward for an Italian church team.



Claudio Taffarel: Sent off for an 'un-Christian' act.

South American Awards

Uruguay's prestigious newspaper "El País" (The Country) carried out its yearly survey among 250 sports journalists, from all over Latin America, to award, not only the "1995 South American Player of the Year", won by Uruguayan former national captain Enzo Francescoli, but to select the Continent's best 11.

The result was as follows:

Goalkeeper: Jose Luis Chilavert (Velez Sarsfield, Argentina)

Defenders: Cafu (Sao Paulo, Brazil), Roberto Trotta (Velez Sarsfield, Argentina), Carlos Gamarra (Internacional, Brazil), and Luis Capurro (Emelec, Ecuador).

Midfielders: Leonel Alvarez (America, Colombia), Eber Moas (Monterrey, Mexico), Enzo Francescoli (River Plate, Argentina), Diego Maradona (Boca Juniors, Argentina).

Strikers: Edmundo (Flamengo, Brazil), Romario (Flamengo, Brazil).

Jose Luis Chilavert and Carlos Gamarra are both Paraguayan internationals and Eber Moas is a Uruguayan international.

Enzo Francescoli was the 10th "South American Player of the Year".

The previous winners were:

- 1986 Antonio Alzamendi (Uruguay)
- 1987 Carlos Valderrama (Colombia)
- 1988 Ruben Paz (Uruguay)
- 1989 Bebeto (Brazil)
- 1990 Raul Amarilla (Paraguay)
- 1991 Oscar Ruggeri (Argentina)
- 1992 Rai (Brazil)
- 1993 Carlos Valderrama (Colombia)
- 1994 Cafu (Brazil)

The award for the "South American Coach of the Year" went to Uruguayan tactician Hector Nunez, who guided Uruguay to win the 1995 Copa America.

Previous winners:

- 1986 Carlos Bilardo (Argentina)
- 1987 Carlos Bilardo (Argentina)
- 1988 Roberto Fleitas (Uruguay)
- 1989 Sebastian Lazaroni (Brazil)
- 1990 Luis Cubilla (Uruguay)
- 1991 Alfonso Basile (Argentina)
- 1992 Tele Santana (Brazil)
- 1993 Francisco Maturana (Colombia)
- 1994 Carlos Bianchi (Argentina)

Brazil team safe after plane crash

Corinthians (Brazil) midfielder Bernardo said last week he had been "born again" after the plane bringing his team home from a match in Ecuador aborted take off and skidded off the runway.

The team finally arrived in Sao Paulo last Thursday after their original plane, a chartered Boeing 727, veered off the runway at Quito airport in Ecuador, broke through a perimeter wall and ended up in a street.

"Everybody who was on the plane will never forget this," Bernardo said. "We were born again."

"It was a tremendous fright but the important thing is we are all here, ready to play Palmeiras," coach Eduardo Amorim said.

"I had started reflecting on my life," midfielder Marcelinho Paulista added.

The players said the cabin began to fill with smoke and they were forced to evacuate by the emergency exits. No-one suffered serious injuries.

A civil aviation official in Quito said the pilot abandoned take-off when he realised the plane did not have the speed to begin its climb. It ran out of runway before stopping.

Corinthians had earlier beaten Ecuadorean champions Espanyol 3-1 in a South American Libertadores Cup match.

IN BRIEF

Eduardo Lujan Manera is the new coach of Peruvian runner-up, Universitario de Deportes, after the resignation of Uruguayan tactician Sergio Markarian. The Argentine coach arrived in Lima with his assistant, former Argentine international Marcelo Trobbiani.

Former Uruguayan international striker Ruben Sosa, currently playing with German First Division club Borussia Dortmund, could sign for Spanish club Zaragoza until June. Sosa also announced that he wants to end his career playing for Uruguayan giant Nacional.

Uruguayan coach Oscar Enrique Tavarez could replace Fabio Capello at the helm of AC Milan if Capello decides to move to Spanish club Real Madrid.

Uruguayan international striker Marcelo Otero, who is currently playing for Italian club Vicenza, could link with English Premier League club Liverpool for a reported \$6.5 million.

LIBERTADORES CUP SECOND ROUND

UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE 3 DEFENSOR SPORTING 2

Chile champion, Universidad de Chile, defeated Uruguay runners-up, Defensor Sporting, 3-2 at Santiago's Nacional Stadium, in front of 40,000 spectators.

The return match will be played at Montevideo's historic Centenario Stadium tomorrow (Wednesday).

Defensor's striker Sebastian Abreu put the Uruguayans 1-0 in front after 15 minutes, but three minutes later Universidad's Argentine midfielder Leonardo Rodriguez equalised through a penalty.

Chile's prolific international scorer, Marcelo Salas, added the second for the home team in the 28th and Esteban Valencia, who starred against Australia two weeks ago, netted the third.

The Uruguayans found the net again in the 65th minute through Sebastian Abreu.

Universidad de Chile: Sergio Vargas, Cristian Castaneda, Cristian Traverso, Ronald Fuentes, Miguel Ponce, Pablo Galdames (Victor Castaneda), Luis Musri (Cristian Mora), Esteban Valencia, Leonardo Rodriguez, Marcelo Salas (Walter Silvani), Rodrigo Golberg.

Four from Romario

Romario scored all four goals in Flamengo's 4-1 win over America to set up a dramatic finish to the first stage of the Rio championship.

Leader Flamengo will book its place in the championship's final phase if it draws with Vasco da Gama, which is second and has to win to overtake its arch-rival.

Vasco kept up the pressure on Flamengo by beating lowly Barreira 1-0 with an injury-time winner from Pimentel.

Romario has recovered his form after a miserable season last year to become Rio's top scorer with 16 goals in 10 games. He sent a message to Brazil coach Mario Zagalo, who is still putting together his team for this year's Olympic Games.

"After the World Cup I said I would be back for the Olympics and now, after overcoming lots of problems, I am in great form," the diminutive striker said.

In the Sao Paulo championship, Palmeiras looked unstoppable after beating Sao Paulo 3-2 to extend its lead in the second stage of the tournament. Former Brazil striker Muller scored twice and current international Rivaldo once.

SAO PAULO CHAMPIONSHIP

Palmeiras	3	Sao Paulo	2
Santos	6	Ferroviaria	2
Guarani	1	Corinthians	0
America	1	Portuguesa	1
Botafogo Preto	1	Juventus	1
Aracatuba	3	Uniao Sao Joao	1
Rio Branco	2	Mogi Mirim	1
XV de Jau	1	Novorizontino	0
Ferroviaria	1	Guarani	2
Juventus	4	Aracatuba	1
Mogi Mirim	6	XV de Jau	0
Portuguesa	1	Palmeiras	2
Sao Paulo	1	Botafogo Preto	0
Uniao Sao Joao	2	Rio Branco	2

TABLE

Palmeiras	7	7	0	0	26	6	21
Sao Paulo	7	5	0	2	13	8	15
Aracatuba	7	4	2	1	12	10	14
Santos	6	4	1	1	22	11	13
Botafogo Preto	7	4	1	2	10	8	13
Guarani	7	3	2	2	5	4	11
Rio Branco	7	3	2	2	10	10	11
America	6	2	4	0	8	5	10
Corinthians	6	3	0	3	9	7	9
Juventus	7	2	3	2	10	11	9
XV de Jau	7	2	1	4	7	16	7
Portuguesa	7	1	3	3	10	10	6
Mogi Mirim	7	1	1	5	11	10	4
Uniao Sao Joao	7	0	3	4	6	20	3
Novorizontino	6	0	2	4	5	12	2
Ferroviaria	7	0	1	6	6	22	1

RIO DE JANEIRO CHAMPIONSHIP

Flamengo	4	America	1
Barreira	0	Vasco da Gama	1
Botafogo	0	Fluminense	0
Itaperuna	2	Olaria	0
Madureira	1	Bangu	0
Volta Redonda	1	Americano	0

ARGENTINA FIRST DIVISION

Gimnasia La Plata	4	Newell's Old Boys	2
Colon	1	Lanus	1
Velez	4	Gimnasia Jujuy	1
Argentinos	0	Ferro	2
Rosario Central	2	Estudiantes La Plata	3
River	4	Racing	2
Independiente	1	Boca	1
San Lorenzo	1	Platense	0
Belgrano Cordoba	0	Huracan	1

TABLE

Estudiantes La Plata	7	5	1	1	16	8	16
Lanus	7	4	2	1	14	6	14
VelezSarsfield	7	4	2	1	14	8	14
Boca Juniors	7	4	2	1	11	5	14
Gimnasia La Plata	7	4	1	2	12	9	13
Huracan	7	3	3	1	10	7	12
Gimnasia de Jujuy	7	4	0	3	10	13	12
DeportivoEspanol	6	3	2	1	8	4	11
Rosario Central	7	3	2	2	10	8	11
Racing Club	7	3	2	2	11	9	11
Ferro Carril Oeste	7	2	3	2	7	5	9
Platense	7	3	0	4	9	8	9
River Plate	7	3	0	4	14	15	9
Independiente	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
San Lorenzo							

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

MLS KICKS ALONG IN USA



Alexi Lalas: Has left Padova and is now playing for New England Revolution.

Always the sport of the future, soccer may have arrived in the United States.

Major League Soccer — is up and running in 10 cities and bringing in 10,600 fans a game.

So many people showed up at the Rose Bowl (69,255) for the first game of the Los Angeles Galaxy that police were turning fans away because traffic was too heavy. Before their Giants Stadium opener (46,826), the New York-New Jersey MetroStars' phone system locked up.

Last weekend, an old-time soccer fan looked around the parking lot at the Meadowlands and said it wasn't the same when he used to show up to watch Pele and the Cosmos.

"Now you see a lot of Americans," Frank Swider of Cranford, NJ, said as he cooked potatoes on a grill. "That's the difference. At the Cosmos games, we were a minority."

The rest of the American sporting public may yawn at the thought of a succession of epic 1-0 struggles. But attendance throughout the league has averaged 28,326 through 17 games. MLS officials have been trying to tone down expectations, knowing that crowds won't stay that large through the summer.

An informal survey of the parking lot revealed that these were soccer fans.

There was a group of guys who played in a 30-and-over league in South Jersey. "We wish we had our own team (in Philadelphia); we wouldn't have to come up here," said Dave Kelly of Bayville.

And a husband and wife from Parsippany, NJ, who got hooked watching 1994 World Cup games on TV and another couple who fell in love with soccer when they took a trip to Spain eight years ago and bought some FC Barcelona tickets.

There was another group of guys originally from Colombia who bought MetroStars season tickets before they knew who was on the team.

Team nicknames may be cheesy (the Dallas Burn, the Kansas City Wiz), but the MLS business strategy seems sound. Some real money is

involved. Among the ownership group are Metromedia Co chairman John Kluge, worth about \$6.7 billion, and American Football League founder Lamar Hunt.

There is a central ownership structure, and a salary cap of \$A1.43 million, and top players are distributed around the league. Before the season, the goal was to average 10,600 fans a game. The league is reportedly prepared to lose \$65 million before reaching a break-even point in its fourth season.

It is supposed to be a league for American players, with international stars sprinkled into the mix. Columbus Crew, the MetroStars' opponent tomorrow, featured a midfielder from South Africa, Doctor Khumalo, who is not only the best player in his country but has his own Puma athletic shoe, a clothing line and a reggae record.

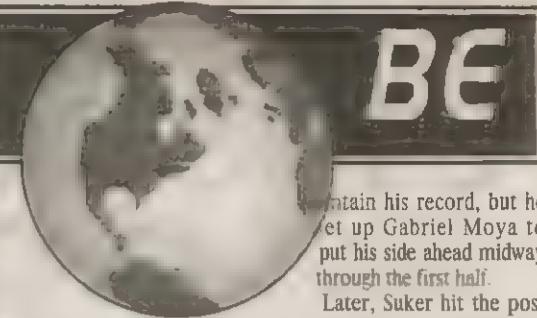
So far, players and coaches agree, the play hasn't quite matched the attendance. It has been uneven, erratic. About what they expected.

League founder Alan Rothenberg suggested that while MLS wouldn't be as good as the Italian Serie A or the English Premier League, it should be right there with the next level, with leagues such as the Mexican first division.

No way, USA international Tab Ramos said. Not yet.

"It's totally different," said Ramos, who spent the last six years playing in Spain and Mexico. "We're talking about leagues that have been established for years. You're talking about a league that has played three games. You look back at what the NBA was 25 years ago, or what major-league baseball was when it first started.

I think we're way ahead of that. MLS has most of the U.S. national team playing, including John Harkes (Washington), Eric Wynalda (San Jose) and Alexi Lalas (New England), all vast experience of top European leagues. Many of the top-name foreign stars are from Latin American countries, including Mexico's flashy goalkeeper, Jorge Campos (Los Angeles), Colombia's mop-topped Carlos Valderrama (Tampa Bay), and Bolivia's Marco "El Diablo" Etcheverry (Washington).



against what he called rampant corruption in Bulgaria's national game.

In a midnight television interview, Lachis said the walkout was a protest against corruption and physical intimidation which he said threatened Bulgarian football as much as they did the country's economy. Extortion and racketeering are serious problems for Bulgaria's post-communist economy.

"Sooner or later somebody had to say it," Lachis said.

Levski Sofia was recently involved in a row when fans threw a live snake at a referee. Fighting also broke out in the players' tunnel.

SLAVIA'S TITLE

SK Slavia Praha clinched its first Czech league title in 49 years on Wednesday despite losing 3-0 at Petra Dmocice.

The UEFA cup semi-finalist led the championship for six months and were beyond the reach of rivals with three games remaining.

European success has proved to be a double-edged sword for Slavia which already has lost striker Vladimir Smicer to French club Lens. More key players are expected to join wealthier sides before the start of next season.

MAGPIES PLUMMET

Newcastle's hopes of winning its first English championship title in 69 years suffered a near-fatal blow last Thursday after it was held to a 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest.

Newcastle, who led the English Premiership table by 12 points in January, trailed leader Manchester United by two points after Ian Woan's 75th minute goal cancelled out Peter Beardsley's superb opener after 35 minutes for the fading title challenger.

BARCELONA FALTERS

Barcelona lost most of its chances of catching Spanish league-leaders Atletico Madrid when it could only manage a 1-1 draw at home to struggling Sevilla last Sunday.

With three games left to play Barcelona is third, one point behind Valencia and five behind Atletico, who won their respective games on Saturday.

Once again it was striker Davor Suker who did the damage for Sevilla.

Suker — who had scored in all his previous league games in Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium — failed to

contain his record, but he set up Gabriel Moya to put his side ahead midway through the first half.

Later, Suker hit the post with a splendid individual effort towards the end of the game.

Barcelona captain Jose Maria Bakero equalised just after the break, but Johan Cruyff's side were unable to break down determined Sevilla resistance.

"Winning the league is still not mathematically impossible," said an optimistic Barcelona vice-president Joan Gaspart after the game.

Meanwhile, Atletico Madrid took a big step toward its first league title in 19 years with a 13th away win of the season by beating Compostela 3-1.

Atletico got off to a fine start when international playmaker Jose-Luis Caminero slipped the Compostela off-side trap and nonchalantly lobbed the ball over goalkeeper Francisco Falagan with just eight minutes on the clock.

Just after the break



Argentine midfielder Diego Simeone (below), who put in a superb all-round performance, combined well with Robert Fresnedoso and side-stepped Falagan to blast home the second.

At the other end Caminero capitalised on sloppy defending to ensure Atletico's victory 10 minutes from time.

With two minutes left Compostela won an indirect free-kick just four metres from the Atletico goal after Molina illegally handled a back-pass in a mix-up with his defenders, and Christensen crashed home a consolation goal.

Valencia once again had Viola to thank as the flamboyant Brazilian striker scored the only goal of a poor game with Sporting Gijon.

Fourth-placed Espanyol virtually guaranteed its UEFA Cup place with a hard-fought 3-2 win at Real Betis, who have lost three consecutive games and with them any chance of playing in Europe next season.



AFRICA CALLING

Former Ivorian national coach Philippe Troussier returned to the west African country last weekend determined to destroy the African club hopes of several of his former charges.

The controversial Frenchman, fired after outspoken criticism of Ivorian soccer administration during the last World Cup qualifiers, took Moroccan team FUS Rabat to Abidjan over the weekend for an African Cup Winners' Cup second round, first leg.

Troussier's team faces a rapidly improving Stade side, which has gained a new prominence in Ivorian football of late.

Another of the fancied teams in the Champions' Cup, Zamalek of Egypt, have been handed a walkover into the quarter-finals after the withdrawal of cash-strapped Mozambican club Costa do Sol.

The civil war in Liberia has seen the Confederation of African Football take the unusual step of ordering just a single

match to determine the winner of the second round pairing between Junior Professionals and Ports Authority of Sierra Leone. The match will be played in Freetown on May 18.

Junior Professionals, the club founded by World Footballer of the Year George Weah, are playing in African competition for the first time.



SNAKES THROWN NOW

Bulgarian soccer fans threw a live snake at a referee after last week's first division clash between Levski Sofia and CSKA.

It landed near Veselin Bogdanov as he left the pitch. A policeman clubbed it to death with his baton.

The match, which CSKA won 1-0, ended with a punch-up in the tunnel leading to the dressing rooms. A policeman suffered a leg injury.

The disciplinary committee of the Bulgarian Football Union was expected to discuss the incidents at a meeting later.

The two clubs have a history of fierce rivalry.

Eleven years ago a cup final between them ended in a brawl, and several players, including World Cup star Hristo Stoichkov, were banned from soccer for a year.

COSTLY PROTEST

Slavia was awarded the Bulgarian Cup last week after its rival Levski Sofia walked off the pitch 15 minutes from time in the Final.

The Executive Committee of the Bulgarian Football Union declared Slavia 4-0 winner, adding three goals to the final 1-0 scoreline.

Levski president Tomas Lachis ordered his players off the pitch in protest at the refereeing.

Later he said his decision to pull out of the match had also been intended as a stand

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FA CUP FINAL 1996

On Saturday, May 11 1996, the latest installment of the world's favourite domestic football competition is upon once again... the FA Cup Final. First contested in 1872, the FA Cup has grown in stature, myth and romance over the years to become the cup that everyone wants to win (ask the foreign players in England and nine out of ten will say they want to win the cup at Wembley). It's not just the players who want to play on that special Saturday in May, every kid in the country dreams about scoring the winner for their favourite club, parading around the pitch with the cup held aloft, accepting the cheers of the supporters and beaming from ear to ear.

Most of us never got past

duty" for Premier League matches this term but only 14 players make up the cup team. For youngsters such as Cooke (1 app 3 sub apps), McGibbon (3 Sub not used) and Casper (1 sub not used), the odds of doing anything other than watching from the stands, would be astronomically high. One thing is for sure though, their time is still to come and if luck is on their side, maybe in a few years time, they too might realise the boyhood dreams of millions.

Liverpool have been far more economical with their squad this term, only using 22 players, of which, all have started or been the substitute in a Premier League match except for: Charlton, Pears and Warner. Indeed, of the two teams, it's the red of Liverpool who have the more settled side and that can only be a good thing for the Anfield faithful.

Obviously it's the final everyone (well those who follow either team, TV and product sponsors and neutrals) wanted as the other teams fell by the wayside. Can't help thinking that if Paul Keating were a commentator he would say: "It's the final we HAD to have!" Not sure if many would agree but as the two teams are the first and third best in England (at time of writing), only having Newcastle United there instead of the "scousers", could really have made a statement like that true. Not that Liverpool are a side of less importance or standing but I think you get the point.

Most appear to believe that Manchester United will walk away with the title, (they may already have by the time this hits the streets), and become the first side to do the "double, double". This could well come true but write off Liverpool at your own peril. There really isn't too much difference in the form of either side and in their two league meetings this term, young Fowler has netted against the "Red Devils" FOUR times to their reply of only two goals,



playing for the school, or a local Sunday team perhaps. But we knew one thing, we had reached our upper limit in the game, had gone as far as our talents would allow and none of us have any regrets about it. We're the lucky ones who've achieved the pinnacle of our footie playing careers and should be counted as very fortunate to have done so. Some unfortunates at the highest level never quite reach the top. Players who are the "squad members" in the "great teams" and make a couple of starts in a season of achievement for one of these sides and by the time they break through, the side is disjointed, broken up or has just plain "gone off the boil".

United, for example, have had 26 players on "squad

Liverpool taking four of six points from the fixtures. Not many defences (especially those of Arsenal and Aston Villa) have found a way to stop Fowler this term and he has the makings of yet another "Liverpool legend" along the lines of Ian Rush, sadly for the "Kopites", his last engagement in the famous old red shirt.

Cantona is United's top scorer in all competitions this term with a decent return, all things considered, of 18 goals (before Sunday's last match). He has scored vital goals in the 1-0 wins over Coventry, Arsenal, Tottenham etc., without which, their title challenge would have crumbled, (main striker Andy Cole only netting 10 in the league and 12 overall this term). Not bad at all for a midfielder-cum-striker. Compare this to Fowler though and he has just about hit twice that alone!

Andy Cole was dropped for the Notts Forest match at Old Trafford with Scholes brought in to replace him. He too has hit the net 10 times in the league but maybe the style of play adopted by United is more to his liking. Speculation mounts that Alex Ferguson has reached his limit with the wayward genius of his main striker Cole and the door to the "Theatre of Dreams" may

well be bolted shut behind him in the off season. Rumour? Speculation? Maybe, but keep an eye on the development of that situation.

Of course, league form will not make one bit of difference in the final. In a "one-off" game such as this, anything can happen, as it did when they last met in the final almost 20 years ago. 1977 saw the first episode in this saga and after Liverpool had taken the lead through Jimmy Case, United equalised through Pearson in a most bizarre manner. From memory, a 50/50 ball came through which 'keeper Ray Clemence reached first, however, the ball rebounded off Pearson and into the net, similar to Ferdinand's goal for Newcastle against Chelsea this term. Jimmy Greenhoff then netted what was the eventual winner and the cup went to Old Trafford against the odds. Such is the nature of the FA Cup, underdogs have a very nasty habit of winning! As in most walks of life, to be successful, you need the rub of the green, that little slice of luck to lift the spirits and settle the nerves but who'll get that on Saturday?

Both sides have had a fairly comfortable road to Wembley with each playing only one replayed match — Utd against Sunderland in the 3rd round and Liverpool

against Leeds Utd in the 6th. United's goal difference stands at For 13 Against 5 whilst Liverpool boast the record of F19 A1. Nothing can be read into these figures either of course but it shows the relative ease of passage for both teams. The full "road to Wembley" is on the opposite page.



Comparing the two runs, Liverpool have had the easier you may think but the smaller clubs always battle hard in the cup, United have met more Premiership opposition but for the fans at least, they've got the result they were looking for. Incidentally, that adds up to 561,492 people turning up to watch the 12 games in this run or put another way, an average of 46,791 per game! A reasonable number you must agree. Quite apart from gate money, scarves, t-shirts, badges etc. The FA Cup will have netted both teams a considerable sum and the

eventual winner will also have the luxury of selling the Cup final video too! Much as the FA Cup final is about everything that is good in the game, the profits cannot be ignored either and the very best to all clubs who reach the "twin towers" in May, they deserve it.

As a special FA Cup and Scottish FA Cup celebration, ALL our "club and country shoulder flags" (approx size: 4 x 3 ft) are available at the bargain price of \$25 each to EVERYONE until the end of May 1996.

Aberdeen, Arsenal (Union or Gunners), Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers (Kenny or Shield), Bradford City, Bristol Rovers, Celtic, Chelsea, Carlisle United, Dundee United, Everton, Ipswich Town, Leeds United, Liverpool, Luton Town, Manchester City, Manchester United, Middlesbrough, Newcastle United (Union or entertainers), Norwich City, QPR, Rangers, Southampton, Stenhousemuir, Sunderland, West Ham United, AC Milan, Inter-Milan, Juventus, Napoli, Sampdoria, AS Roma, Lazio, Parma, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Ajax, Cross of St. George, Cross of St. Andrew, Wales and Ireland (national flags approx. 5 x 4 ft).

A total choice of 46 different flags to choose from. As ever, this offer cannot last so be quick or miss out. Allow 28 days please and all cheques payable to: UKSSD please and sent to: PO Box 56, Kingsway West, NSW 2208.



A dream realised: Everton players celebrate last year's FA Cup win over Manchester United.

The Road to Wembley

MANCHESTER UNITED

VS

LIVERPOOL

3RD ROUND: SATURDAY JANUARY 6, 1996

Utd v Sunderland

(H): 2-2 Butt 13 Cantona 80.

Attendance: 41,563.

Liverpool v Rochdale
(H): 7-0 Fowler 21 Collymore 43, 44, 70
Valentine 48 og Rush 61 McAteer 85.
Attendance: 28,126.

3RD ROUND REPLAY: TUESDAY JANUARY 16, 1996

Utd v Sunderland

(A): 2-1 Scholes 70 Cole 89.

Attendance: 21,378.

4TH ROUND: SATURDAY JANUARY 27, 1996

Utd v Reading

(A): 3-0 Giggs 36 Parker 56 Cantona 89.

Attendance: 14,780.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 1996

Liverpool v Shrewsbury Town

(A): 4-0 Collymore 8 Walton 69 og Fowler 75
McAteer 84.
Attendance: 7,752.

5TH ROUND: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 1996

Utd v Manchester City

(H): 2-1 Cantona 38 p Sharpe 77.

Attendance: 42,692.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 1996

Liverpool v Charlton Athletic

(H): 2-1 Fowler 12 Collymore 59.
Attendance: 36,818.

6TH ROUND: MONDAY APRIL 11, 1996

Utd v Southampton 2-1.

(H): Cantona 49 Sharpe 90.

Attendance: 45,446.

SUNDAY MARCH 10, 1996

Liverpool v Leeds Utd

(A): 0-0.

REPLAY: WEDNESDAY MARCH 20, 1996

v Leeds Utd

(H): 3-0 McManaman 57, 73 Fowler 83.
Attendance: 30,812.

SEMI-FINAL: MARCH 31, 1996

Utd v Chelsea (Villa Park)

2-1 Cole 55 Beckham 58.

Attendance: 38,421.

Liverpool v Aston Villa (Old Traf)

3-0 Fowler 16, 86 McAteer 90.

Attendance: 39,072.

Book Review

BY ROY HAY

A Football Compendium: A comprehensive guide to the literature of Association Football, compiled by Peter J Seddon, The British Library, Boston Spa, 1995, ISBN 0-7123-1075-4, £60.00.

At last soccer has something to match Padwick's *Bibliography of Cricket*. This compendium claims to be a comprehensive guide to the literature of Association Football. It is a bibliography of all books and serials published in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland about the game of association football in all its aspects. It covers works published up to March 1995. There are various exclusions. Dissertations and theses, periodicals, programmes and club yearbooks are not included with a few exceptions. On the other hand, there is a very helpful list of fanzines and there are sections on music and film.

It is organised in fourteen chapters, from History and Development, through Club Histories, Personalities, Theory and Practice to Reference Books, Humour, Fanzines and Music, with four separate indexes and a list of addresses. Fantasy football and subbuteo have their references. The only Australian mention in the subject index is of Tom Gough's *Introduction to Australian Soccer*, and the compiler's comments about English follower's knowledge of the game, while probably accurate, are a little less than helpful. Craig Johnston's *Walk Alone* is there, though again the comment seems to miss the account of his apprenticeship and his family circumstances, which help explain his abrupt departure from the game, which is otherwise so incomprehensible.

Initially I was concerned about the cross referencing system which results in numerous repetitions throughout the text, sometimes complete with compiler's notes, which must add to the length and cost of the exercise. So, for example, Bill Murray's *The Old Firm* appears three times, once each for Rangers and Celtic, and once in football and society. But as Roy Hattersley points out in his introduction, most readers, as fans, will turn to their own club and their own heroes first, and they will expect to find the full details they want there, not cross-referenced to another section entirely. The provision of both ISBN numbers and British Library catalogue details, where known, is a real boon for the book purchaser or serious researcher. It has been meticulously edited, no small praise these days.

When there is so much in this book any grizzles are bound to appear carping, yet surely Tony Mason's incomparable *Association football and English Society, 1863-1914*, ought to be mentioned up front in the introduction to the history and development of the game, not tucked away in the football and society section, among a plethora of works on football hooliganism.

Pete Davies's *All Played Out* is in, but his exemplary Twenty-two foreigners in funny shorts is not, perhaps because it was only published in the United States, though it ought to be under the Wrexham club section as well as football and society and the lighter side of the game. Philip Scratton, Ann Jephrey and Sheila Coleman's *No Last Rights: The denial of justice and the promotion of myth in the aftermath of the Hillsborough Disaster*, just missed the March 1995 deadline. When we send Peter Seddon all our suggestions for the second edition, will we still be expected to pay full price all over again, or, once the British Library has recouped its costs from the institutions, will it do a cheap, paperbacked edition for the fans at whom the book is ostensibly directed?

Given that he has just spent £60 (\$120.00) on a book on football, this Scot must ask, "Is it too well produced"? Would the fans not be better served by something more accessible and perhaps less polished? On this I must confess that I finally came down on the side of the author (he is an author, however much he wishes to hide behind the modest role of compiler) and his publisher. Hang the expense. Let us have something worthy of the sport. The game deserves a beautiful book of books and this is it.

Premier League Team

PROFILES NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Mark Crossley (G) — Born 1969 in Barnsley. Mark was a trainee at Nottingham Forest where he has played all his senior career except for a brief loan spell at Manchester United (where he did not play in the first team). Aspires to be in the Scotland squad.

Stuart Pearce (D) — Born London 1962. Left Wealdstone for Coventry where he played 51 League games before continuing his career at Forest. Former England Captain.

Tony Dorigo (D) — Born Perth Australia. Apprentice at Aston Villa where he played over 100 first team games. Then moved to Chelsea where he brought up another ton of appearances before moving to Nottingham Forest. England international.

Steve Chettle (D) — Born 1968 Nottingham. His local team is the only one he has ever played for.

Colin Cooper (D) — Born 1967 Durham. Played nearly 20 league games for Middlesbrough before leaving for Millwall. Then joined Forest. England international.

Des Little (D) — Born in Wolverhampton in 1971. Left Worcester City for Swansea and then moved to Nottingham Forest.

Chris Bart Williams (M) — Born Freetown 1974. Trainee at Leyton Orient before really making his mark at Sheffield Wednesday. Moved to Forest in summer. England youth international.

Steve Stone (M) — Born Gateshead 1971. Was a trainee at Forest and has worked through the different youth levels. Now a full England international.

Ian Woan (M) — Born Wirral 1967. Left Runcorn for Forest and has had a successful career there.

Alf-Inge Haaland (M) — Born Norway (Stavanger). Left Bryne for Nottingham Forest. International player.

David Phillips (M) — Born Wegberg 1963. Apprentice at Plymouth before having spells at Manchester, Coventry, and Norwich City. Has played 100 games plus for Nottingham Forest.

Anthony Carbone (M) — Born Perth (Australia) 1974. Left Perth Italia for Forest where he is still playing in the lower ranks.

Stephen Howe (M) — Born Annitsford 1973. Trainee at Forest who is on the edge of the first team.

Andrea Silenzi (F) — Born 1966 Italy. New recruit from Italy last summer. Left Torino for Forest has played 5 times for Italy at full international level.

Kevin Campbell (F) — Born 1970 at Lambeth. Went through youth ranks at Arsenal, had two loans spells, one at Leyton Orient the other at Leicester. Joined Forest in the summer.

Jason Lee (F) — Born Newham 1971. Trainee at Charlton, went on loan to Stockport, then moved to Lincoln before joining Shouend. Then moved to Nottingham Forest.

Bryan Roy (F) — Born Amsterdam 1969. Left Foggia for Forest after USA '94. Dutch international player.

Paul McGregor (F) — Born 1974 in Liverpool. Nottingham Forest is his first, and only, League club.

Manager: Frank Clark has done remarkable job as manager at the club and is his own person, no longer seen as just the man who replaced Brian Clough.



MARK CROSSLEY: At Forest since he was a trainee except for brief loan spell at Man United.

RATINGS OF ENGLISH GROUNDS

TEAM GROUND ADDRESS	TRANMERE	WALSALL	WATFORD
CAPACITY	Prenton Park	Bescot Stadium	Vicarage Road Stadium
RECORD GATE	Prenton Road	Bescot Crescent	Vicarage Road
GROUND DEBUT	West Birkenhead	Walsall	Watford
BY RAIL	L42 9PN	WS1 4SA	WD1 8ER
COMMENTS	16,789	9,000	22,000
	24,424 (1972)	10,628 (1991)	34,099 (1969)
	1911	1990	1922
	Hamilton Square or Rock Ferry	Bescot	Watford West (major games) or Watford High Street
ACCESSIBILITY	Excellent redevelopment	Excellent league stadium. This ground was one of the first in the wave of new UK grounds. And you can't beat its site.	Umm it's okay, what with the new stands and everything. But really that's about all. Lots of little lane ways that away supporters will find threatening.
RATING /5	2.5	5	2.5
OVERALL GROUND RATING	8.5	8	7
RATING /10	10		

Old Trafford the best



Manchester United's Old Trafford ground was hailed ahead of Wembley as the best stadium in England by Euro '96 chiefs.

Ernie Walker, chairman of the UEFA stadia committee, visited United as part of a whistle stop tour of the eight grounds being used for the tournament.

And he enthused, "I think Old Trafford is probably the best stadium in England. Wembley is biggest of course and is a special place with the history and background attached to it.

"But nowadays Manchester is much more modern and you'd have to say that as a pure viewing facility, Old Trafford is better equipped."

Walker, former secretary of the Scottish Football Association, was joined by other committee members putting the finishing touches to a four-year operation preparing English grounds

for the tournament.

And he insisted that foreign visitors had been more than impressed with the quality of the facilities on offer in England.

"There is a tremendous difference between stadiums now and 10 years ago," continued Walker.

"The best stadia in the world are now in Britain. That's partly as a result of the awful things that have happened in this country, but city for city, there isn't a country in the world that has such a splendid array of stadia.

"If for some reason we couldn't use one of the eight stadiums we have chosen, I am sure there are another eight we could easily pick that would be just as good.

"I'm not suggesting this was brought about by wonderful foresight. It was forced upon football and, when they realised it had to be done, they did it in style."



Euro 96
England

Oxford graduate to the first

Oxford celebrated promotion to the English first division after a second half scoring spree against Peterborough last Sunday.

Its 4-0 home victory ensured a runners-up spot behind Swindon, but its opening goal was anything but convincing as Giuliano Grazoli put the ball past his own keeper and was promptly hauled off.

Oxford then turned on the style with further goals coming from Paul Moody, Matt Elliott and David Rush.

That brought gloom to both Blackpool and Notts County, who both have to settle for a place in the play-offs.

Andy Morrison put Blackpool ahead after six minutes and Tony Ellis added a second late in the game to give them a 2-0 victory over York at Bootham Crescent.

Notts County, however, suffered disappointment at Chesterfield, going down 1-

0. Nick Law's second half penalty decided the outcome but the home side still missed out on the play-offs.

Bradford will join Blackpool, Notts County and Crewe in the play-offs after a nail-biting 3-2 victory at Hull, where the match was twice held up as fans invaded the pitch.

Meanwhile York's match with Brighton, abandoned last Saturday because of rioting fans, will now have to be replayed with York needing a point to survive as Carlisle has scored two more goals.

Carlisle climbed out of the bottom four after a 2-1 victory against Bristol City.

Bury clinched the third automatic promotion spot in division three after beating Cardiff 3-0 at Gigg Lane.

Darlington battled back after being 2-0 down at Scunthorpe to force a 3-3 draw but it was too little too late. It will be joined in the play-offs by Plymouth, Hereford and Colchester.

As Ryan Giggs drove Manchester United's third and final goal into Middlesbrough's net nine minutes from the end of their final premier league match last Sunday, 3,000 visiting fans decided their moment had come.

A huge banner, reading simply "Champions" was unveiled and passed among them.

In truth, it might have been brought out some time earlier to celebrate Manchester United's third English league title in the last four years and the 10th in their history.

For while Sunday proved the final showdown between Manchester United and Newcastle United for the 1995-96 title, the afternoon went Manchester's way from the second minute when Middlesbrough's Neil Cox missed an easy chance to put his side ahead.

Despite some characteristic jinking runs from their Brazilian midfielder Juninho, the home team were never as close again.

Manchester United looked sheer class in winning 3-0 to deservedly take the title with 82 points — four clear of Newcastle.

In the 13th minute, defender David May prompted the initial celebrations at United's end of the Riverside Stadium by heading his first goal of the season.

And in a moment of supreme irony after 54 minutes, substitute Andy Cole, for so long a Newcastle hero but left out of the Manchester side after indifferent form recently, doubled the lead with an overhead flick — his first kick after replacing Paul Scholes.

And there could be more to come. Next weekend Manchester United make their third successive F.A. Cup final appearance and if they beat Liverpool, will clinch an unprecedented second English league and cup double.

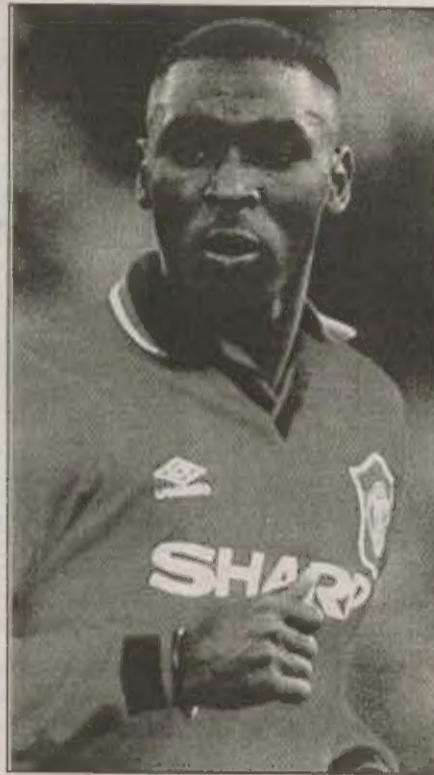
Captain Steve Bruce, out of the side because of injury, received the championship trophy on the pitch while Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson, a Manchester United hero for 13 years, added his congratulations and home supporters stood to

Manchester United "Champions"

applaud, delighted that Newcastle, their near-neighbours in north-east England, had been deprived of a first championship since 1927.

Alex Ferguson who has now steered his team to seven trophies in the last six years — with the prospect of another to come next weekend — was naturally delighted afterwards.

"The first title is always the hardest to win but this has been a magnificent achievement because of



Andy Cole: His goal helped to snatch the title from his old club.

a lot of difficulties.

"We started the season without Ryan Giggs, Andy Cole, Eric Cantona and Steve Bruce plus the three players who left us last summer.

"We had injuries in December and after losing at Tottenham on New Years Day it was a case of one mistake and we were dead."

But of the 16 league games United played after that setback they only once lost while Newcastle, who led the table by 12 points in January allowed United to overtake them.

Newcastle could still have won the title on Sunday if they had beaten Tottenham and Manchester had lost at Middlesbrough. A 1-1 draw with Spurs did Newcastle no good at all.

English league officials had a championship trophy at both Middlesbrough and Newcastle so that one would be presented to whoever won the title.

They did not reveal which one was the replica and which the genuine article, but after a thrilling season which produced some outstanding football, there could only be one genuine champion — and that proved to be Manchester United.

Surprisingly though that failed to dampen the spirits of the Newcastle fans on Sunday night.

While Manchester celebrated all the way back to Old Trafford, a huge celebration was getting underway in the Bigg Market in Newcastle's city centre.

Thousands of Geordie fans decided to drink away their disappointment at losing out on their team's first championship for 69 years.

As manager Kevin Keegan said: "We will be after them again next season. We'll still be playing the same way. We'll be scoring goals and letting them in."

He also dismissed as "utter garbage" speculation in some Sunday papers that he was quitting the club.

That at least, should give the Newcastle fans some real cause for celebration.

Gascoigne out but Rangers still win



Ally McCoist: Sets up Rangers' victory with the opening goal.

Champions Rangers left out a handful of top players but still won 3-0 at Kilmarnock today in their final league game of the season.

Without Andy Goram, Richard Gough and Paul Gascoigne, the Ibrox side still dominated the game from start to finish.

Ally McCoist set up Rangers' victory with the opening goal in the 22nd minute with a typical close-range effort.

Four minutes from the interval, a short pass back by home skipper Ray Montgomerie led to the visitors' second goal, with Gordon Durie nipping in to beat Dragane Lekovic to the ball.

Durie struck again in the 74th minute to round off a great league season for Rangers.

They now go on to meet Hearts in the Scottish Cup final on May 18.

Hearts battled to a 1-1 league draw at Motherwell without serious loss to pride or personnel.

Celtic beat Raith Rovers 4-1 with the help of two goals from Jorge Cadete.

Faithful Celtic supporters packed Parkhead and stayed on after the final whistle to salute their players despite the club playing second fiddle again to Rangers.

Drink and be merry

Soccer fans attending next month's European championship may be able to drink until dawn because magistrates plan to relax Britain's usual restrictions on bars and clubs, the London Times newspaper reported.

It quoted police as saying they were studying proposals to allow pubs to stay open all night in cities hosting the games, including Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and London.

British pubs must normally close at 11pm, although the strict licensing laws that required them to close at various hours during the day have been gradually relaxed in recent years.

Many police have pressed for more flexible closing hours, saying fixed closing times encourage people to down several drinks quickly before leaving — which leads to violence when hundreds of drunks all hit the streets at the same time.

Police, worried about the reputation of some British soccer fans as hooligans, have promised to crack down on any potential violence during the championship.

Alcohol is often linked with soccer violence.

Italian authorities banned alcohol sales for 24 hours either side of matches at the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy. But in 1992 Swedish organisers set up beer tents for soccer fans for the last European championships.

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Illegal Euro '96 tickets warning



Euro 96
England

British police last week arrested 13 people as part of an investigation into the possible illegal sales of tickets for the European championships, which will be held in England this June.

Around 80 police officers mounted simultaneous raids on 12 ticket outlets across London in their search for evidence of touting — the illegal reselling of tickets for higher prices. Tickets for the tournament have yet to be distributed.

Police, who fear tickets could fall into the hands of hooligans bent on disrupting the tournament, said further raids would follow.

John Barker, the officer in charge of the London police intelligence-gathering operation ahead of the tournament, said the raids demonstrated the authorities' determination to stamp out any illegal trade in tickets.

"Our advice to fans is not to buy tickets from touts. Forged or stolen tickets could be offered for sale. There is no guarantee that the ticket you buy is genuine and will get you into the ground," he told reporters.

"Selling illegal tickets can lead to problems with crowd segregation and crowd disorder."

British police are mounting a major operation to ensure that hooligans do not disrupt the tournament, which will be the biggest sporting event held in England since the 1966 World Cup.

Home ground move delayed



English club Brighton and Hove Albion will play one more season at its Goldstone ground, where fans ripped down the goalposts during the game, against York City, which was abandoned after 16 minutes with the score blank.

Brighton, which is in financial trouble and has been relegated to the third division, has secured a rental deal with the ground's developers until June 1997.

Referring to the crowd scenes, club chairman Bill Archer said last week: "Our club do not want these yobs who brought shame on the proud name of Brighton."

Hundreds of Seagulls fans

swarmed on to the pitch to protest against plans to share a ground with near south coast neighbour Portsmouth. Some swung on the crossbars, others tried to storm the players' tunnel.

Wooden stakes and the corrugated plastic from the tunnel were ripped up and thrown. Several people were injured and the English Football Association has launched an inquiry.

EX MAN CITY CHAIRMAN DIES

Former Manchester City chairman Peter Swales died suddenly last Wednesday after appearing to improve from a heart attack the previous weekend.

Swales was chairman of City for over 20 years from 1973 until two years ago when a bitter takeover battle saw him replaced by former England and City striker Francis Lee who also took over the club.

Under his stewardship City won only one major trophy when they lifted the League Cup in 1976.

They also played in European competition for three years in the late 1970s, were runners-up to Liverpool by a single point in the league in 1977 and lost the 1981 F.A. Cup final to Tottenham after a replay.

His later years as City chairman were marked by a vociferous campaign led by the fans who wanted him to leave the club.



GAZZA ACHIEVES THE "DOUBLE"

England international Paul Gascoigne was celebrating a Scottish player of the year double last week.

The Scottish Football Writers' Association placed the Glasgow Rangers midfielder top of their poll for the 1995-96 season just two days after his fellow professionals in Scotland had voted him their player of the year.

Gascoigne, a club record \$A8.27 million signing from Lazio last European summer, has netted 19 goals in his debut season.

"It is special to be named player of the year by the football writers, some of whom have been my biggest critics since moving to Scotland," said Gascoigne, who has collected 14 yellow cards in domestic play.

Team mate Brian Laudrup won the "double" last season.

PORTUGUESE WARY OF MAD COWS

The Portuguese squad are not afraid of the Danes, Croats and Turks they will meet in June's European championship, but the boys are taking no chances with Britain's beef.

Portuguese farmers signed a protocol with the country's federation on Friday, agreeing to send a tonne of Portuguese meat to England for their players' consumption.

Like other European Union countries Portugal has banned British beef because of fears about the spread of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or mad cow disease.

The Portuguese squad leaves for Dublin at the end of this month for their final warm-up match against the Republic of Ireland.

Asprilla banned & fined \$20,000

Newcastle's Colombian international Faustino Asprilla was banned for one match and fined \$A19,220 last week following his clash with Manchester City defender Keith Curle in February.

He was found guilty by an English Football Association disciplinary committee on two charges of misconduct.

The suspension will not take effect until next season.

Asprilla and Curle were involved in a running skirmish during their clubs' premier league match on February 24.

The Colombian, playing only his second game for Newcastle after his club record \$A14.42 million move from Italian side Parma, was first seen to elbow Curle in the face.

The City captain had grabbed him from behind as the pair challenged for the ball.

Then both were involved in a tussle after the final whistle during which Asprilla appeared to butt Curle.

Referee Martin Bodenham took no action but the F.A. charged both players after studying television footage.

Curle was cleared of any wrong doing.



Robson's new lease of life

Former England manager Bobby Robson was given a dreadful fright last European summer when his doctor told him he might only have nine months to live.

A malignant tumour had been diagnosed in his nose and the coach of Portuguese champions Porto, then 62, needed urgent surgery.

"He laid it on the line all right. He said I would not see the season out unless something was done," a tanned and relaxed Robson recalled last week.

The operation was successful and Robson, who has just guided Porto to their second successive league title, is busy making plans for his footballing future.

First on the list is a hat-trick of championships with Porto — something the northern Portuguese club has never achieved — and a longer run in the European Cup.

Porto failed to progress beyond the Champions' League stage this season, finishing third behind Nantes and Panathinaikos.

But Robson, who managed England's Ipswich Town for 13 years

before running the national team between 1982 and 1990, said he would not rule out a return home if the offer was right.

It would have to be a very good offer "from one of the giants", he said, mentioning no names.

With another year to go on his contract, there is no guarantee that Porto would release the coach who has led them to success over long-time Lisbon rivals, Benfica and Sporting.

Arsenal nearly succeeded in luring him away towards the end of the 1994-95 season, before he learned of his illness.

"It was a great offer from Arsenal. Anything I wanted — a two, five, seven-year contract, anything," he said. He accepted but Porto refused to release him.

"Arsenal were prepared to buy up my contract, but Porto said they did not want the money. In the end, I felt I had to stay."

If he did return to England, Robson said it would have to be on his own terms, and these would include not taking on all the administrative responsibilities that English managers are forced to bear.

"In England, it is crazy. The manager runs everything," he said.

"On the continent, it is different. Here I am responsible for the performance of the first team, and that is it."

Despite the pressures of management in the British game, Robson looks back on his days at Ipswich with affection.

Ipswich's 1-0 defeat of Arsenal in the 1978 FA Cup final was arguably his most prized moment. "We were only a small club, but even Arsenal fans said we deserved it," he said.

His saddest moment in a footballing career stretching back 46 years was the semi-final loss to West Germany in the 1990 World Cup finals.

He rates that side, which went out on penalties after extra-time, as the best English line-up since the 1966 World Cup-winning team.

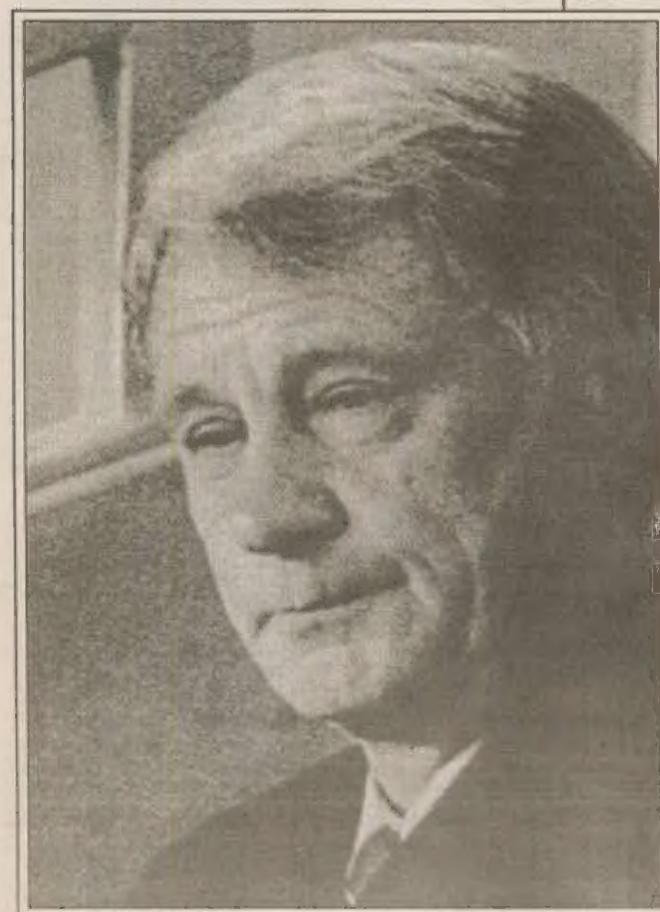
Before joining Porto, Robson had two seasons with PSV Eindhoven where he also won back-to-back championships. But he disappointed the Dutch by failing to bring them success in Europe.

He moved to Sporting in the summer of 1992 but was sacked, for the first and only time in his career, halfway through the 1993-94 season.

Robson had his revenge by sealing his first championship at Porto with an away win over Sporting at their Alvalade ground in Lisbon. "That was a sweet moment, the perfect script," he said.

The medical prognosis is now excellent, although Robson will need regular check-ups. The experience, however, had a profound impact on him. "Suddenly you get a real scare ... and I said 'hang on a minute, I haven't seen life yet'."

From now on, he aims to take a more relaxed view of things. "Football gives you a good life, no question, but it can suffocate you if you let it."



Bobby Robson: Has new lease of life after tumour removed.

WEEKEND MATCH PROGRAM



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SATURDAY, MAY 11

MARCONI FAIRFIELD

v

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Marconi Stadium 7.00PM

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL

SATURDAY, MAY 11

BRISBANE STRIKERS

v

SYDNEY UNITED

Suncorp Stadium 7.00PM

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL

SUNDAY, MAY 12

UTS OLYMPIC

v

ADELAIDE CITY

Leichhardt Oval 6.30PM

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